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PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS,

BEGUN AND HELD

AT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON,

SEPTEMBER 4, 1837,

AND IN THE SIXTY-SECOND YEAR OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY BLAIR AND RIVES.

1837.

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25th CONGRESS,
1st Session.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TO

THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS,

AT THE

COMMENCEMENT OF THE FIRST SESSION

OF

THE TWENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1837.

Printed by order of the Senate of the United States.

WASHINGTON:
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1837.

MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate,
and House of Representatives:

The act of the 23d of June, 1836, regulating the deposites of the public money, and directing the employment of State, District, and Territorial banks for that purpose, made it the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to discontinue the use of such of them as should, at any time, refuse to redeem their notes in specie, and to substitute other banks, provided a sufficient number could be obtained to receive the public deposites, upon the terms and conditions therein prescribed. The general and almost simultaneous suspension of specie payments by the banks, in May last, rendered the performance of this duty imperative, in respect to those which had been selected under the act, and made it, at the same time, impracticable to employ the requisite number of others, upon the prescribed conditions. The specific regulations established by Congress, for the deposite and safekeeping of the public moneys, having thus unexpectedly become inoperative, I felt it to be my duty to afford you an early opportunity for the exercise of your supervisory powers over the subject.

I was also led to apprehend that the suspension of specie payments, increasing the embarrassments before existing in the pecuniary affairs of the country, would so far diminish the public revenue, that the accruing receipts into the Treasury would not, with the reserved five millions, be sufficient to defray the unavoidable expenses of the Government, until the usual period for the meeting of Congress; whilst the authority to call upon the States for a portion of the sums deposited with them, was too restricted to enable the Department to realize a sufficient amount from that source. These apprehensions have been justified by subsequent results, which render it certain that this deficiency will occur, if additional means be not provided by Congress.

The difficulties experienced by the mercantile interest in meeting their engagements, induced them to apply to me, previously to the actual suspension of specie payments, for indulgence upon their bonds for duties; and all the relief authorized by law was promptly and cheerfully granted. The dependence of the Treasury upon the avails of these bonds, to enable it to make the deposites with the States required by law, led me, in the outset, to limit this indulgence to the 1st of September; but it has since been extended to the 1st of October, that the matter might be submitted to your further direction.

Questions were also expected to arise, in the recess, in respect to the October instalment of those deposites, requiring the interposition of Congress.

A provision of another act, passed about the same time, and intended to secure a faithful compliance with the obligation of the United States to satisfy all demands upon them, in specie or its equivalent, prohibited the offer of any bank note, not convertible on the spot into gold or silver at the will of the holder; and the ability of the Government, with millions on deposite, to meet its engagements in the manner thus required by law, was rendered very doubtful by the event to which I have referred.

Sensible that adequate provisions for these unexpected exigencies could only be made by Congress; convinced that some of them would be indispensably necessary to the public service, before the regular period of your meeting; and desirous, also, to enable you to exercise, at the earliest moment, your full constitutional powers for the relief of the country, I could not, with propriety, avoid subjecting you to the inconvenience of assembling at as early a day as the state of the popular representation would permit. I am sure that I have done but justice to your feelings, in believing that this inconvenience will be cheerfully encountered, in the hope of rendering your meeting conducive to the good of the country.

During the earlier stages of the revulsion through which we have just passed, much acrimonious discussion arose, and great diversity of opinion existed, as to its real causes. This was not surprising. The operations of credit are so diversified, and the influences which affect them so numerous, and often so subtle, that even impartial and well-informed persons are seldom found to agree in respect to them. To inherent difficulties were also added other tendencies, which were by no means favorable to the discovery of truth. It was hardly to be expected that those who disapproved the policy of the Government in relation to the currency, would, in the excited state of public feeling produced by the occasion, fail to attribute to that policy any extensive embarrassment in the monetary affairs of the country. The matter thus became connected with the passions and conflicts of party; opinions were more or less affected by political considerations; and differences were prolonged, which might otherwise have been determined by an appeal to facts, by the exercise of reason, or by mutual concession. It is, however, a cheering reflection, that circumstances of this nature cannot prevent a community so intelligent as our's, from ultimately arriving at correct conclusions. Encouraged by the firm belief of this truth, I proceed to state my views, so far as may be necessary to a clear understanding of the remedies I feel it my duty to propose, and of the reasons by which I have been led to recommend them.

The history of trade in the United States, for the last three or four years, affords the most convincing evidence that our present condition is chiefly to be attributed to overaction in all the departments of business; an overaction deriving, perhaps, its first impulses from antecedent causes, but stimulated to its destructive consequences by excessive issues of bank paper, and by other facilities for the acquisition and enlargement of credit. At the commencement of the year 1834, the banking capital of the United States, including that of the national bank then existing, amounted to about two hundred millions of dollars; the bank notes then in circulation, to about ninety-five millions; and the loans and discounts of the banks, to three hundred and twenty-four millions. Between that time and the 1st of January, 1836, being the latest period to which accurate accounts have been received, our banking capital was increased to more than two hundred and fifty-one millions; our paper circulation, to more than one hundred and forty millions; and the loans and discounts, to more than four hundred and fifty-seven millions. To this vast increase are to be added the many millions of credit, acquired by means of foreign loans contracted by the States and State institutions, and, above all, by the lavish accommodations extended by foreign dealers to our merchants.

The consequences of this redundancy of credit, and of the spirit of reckless speculation engendered by it, were, a foreign debt contracted by our

citizens, estimated, in March last, at more than thirty millions of dollars; the extension to traders in the interior of our country of credits for supplies greatly beyond the wants of the people; the investment of thirty-nine and a half millions of dollars in unproductive public lands, in the years 1835 and 1836, whilst, in the preceding year, the sales amounted to only four and a half millions; the creation of debts, to an almost countless amount, for real estate in existing or anticipated cities and villages, equally unproductive, and at prices now seen to have been greatly disproportionate to their real value; the expenditure of immense sums in improvements, which, in many cases, have been found to be ruinously improvident; the diversion to other pursuits of much of the labor that should have been applied to agriculture, thereby contributing to the expenditure of large sums in the importation of grain from Europe—an expenditure which, amounting in 1834 to about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, was, in the first two quarters of the present year, increased to more than two millions of dollars; and, finally, without enumerating other injurious results, the rapid growth among all classes, and especially in our great commercial towns, of luxurious habits, founded too often on merely fancied wealth, and detrimental alike to the industry, the resources, and the morals of our people.

It was so impossible that such a state of things could long continue, that the prospect of revulsion was present to the minds of considerate men before it actually came. None, however, had correctly anticipated its severity. A concurrence of circumstances, inadequate of themselves to produce such wide-spread and calamitous embarrassments, tended so greatly to aggravate them, that they cannot be overlooked in considering their history. Among these may be mentioned, as most prominent, the great loss of capital sustained by our commercial emporium in the fire of December, 1835—a loss, the effects of which were underrated at the time, because postponed for a season by the great facilities of credit then existing; the disturbing effects in our commercial cities of the transfers of the public moneys required by the deposite law of June, 1836; and the measures adopted by the foreign creditors of our merchants to reduce their debts, and to withdraw from the United States a large portion of our specie.

However unwilling any of our citizens may heretofore have been to assign to these causes the chief instrumentality in producing the present state of things, the developments subsequently made, and the actual condition of other commercial countries, must, as it seems to me, dispel all remaining doubts upon the subject. It has since appeared that evils, similar to those suffered by ourselves, have been experienced in Great Britain, on the Continent, and, indeed, throughout the commercial world; and that in other countries, as well as in our own, they have been uniformly preceded by an undue enlargement of the boundaries of trade, prompted, as with us, by unprecedented expansions of the systems of credit. A reference to the amount of banking capital, and the issues of paper credits put in circulation in Great Britain, by banks and in other ways, during the years 1834, 1835, and 1836, will show an augmentation of the paper currency there, as much disproportioned to the real wants of trade as in the United States. With this redundancy of the paper currency, there arose in that country also a spirit of adventurous speculation, embracing the whole range of human enterprise. Aid was profusely given to projected improvements; large investments were made in foreign stocks and

loans; credits for goods were granted, with unbounded liberality, to merchants in foreign countries; and all the means of acquiring and employing credit were put in active operation, and extended, in their effects, to every department of business, and to every quarter of the globe. The reaction was proportioned in its violence to the extraordinary character of the events which preceded it. The commercial community of Great Britain were subjected to the greatest difficulties, and their debtors in this country were not only suddenly deprived of accustomed and expected credits, but called upon for payments, which, in the actual posture of things here, could only be made through a general pressure, and at the most ruinous sacrifices.

In view of these facts, it would seem impossible for sincere inquirers after truth to resist the conviction, that the causes of the revulsion in both countries have been substantially the same. Two nations the most commercial in the world, enjoying but recently the highest degree of apparent prosperity, and maintaining with each other the closest relations, are suddenly, in a time of profound peace, and without any great national disaster, arrested in their career, and plunged into a state of embarrassment and distress. In both countries we have witnessed the same redundancy of paper money, and other facilities of credit; the same spirit of speculation; the same partial successes; the same difficulties and reverses; and, at length, nearly the same overwhelming catastrophe: the most material difference between the results in the two countries has only been, that, with us, there has also occurred an extensive derangement in the fiscal affairs of the Federal and State Governments, occasioned by the suspension of specie payments by the banks.

The history of these causes and effects in Great Britain and the United States, is substantially the history of the revulsion in all other commercial countries.

The present and visible effects of these circumstances on the operations of the Government, and on the industry of the people, point out the objects which call for your immediate attention.

They are: to regulate by law the safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public moneys; to designate the funds to be received and paid by the Government; to enable the Treasury to meet promptly every demand upon it; to prescribe the terms of indulgence, and the mode of settlement to be adopted, as well in collecting from individuals the revenue that has accrued, as in withdrawing it from former depositories; and to devise and adopt such further measures, within the constitutional competency of Congress, as will be best calculated to revive the enterprise, and to promote the prosperity of the country.

For the deposite, transfer, and disbursement of the revenue, national and State banks have always, with temporary and limited exceptions, been heretofore employed: but, although advocates of each system are still to be found, it is apparent that the events of the last few months have greatly augmented the desire, long existing among the people of the United States, to separate the fiscal operations of the Government from those of individuals or corporations.

Again to create a national bank, as a fiscal agent, would be to disregard the popular will twice solemnly and unequivocally expressed. On no question of domestic policy is there stronger evidence that the sentiments of a large majority are deliberately fixed; and I cannot concur with those

who think they see, in recent events, a proof that these sentiments are, or a reason that they should be, changed.

Events similar in their origin and character have heretofore frequently occurred, without producing any such change; and the lessons of experience must be forgotten, if we suppose that the present overthrow of credit would have been prevented by the existence of a national bank. Proneness to excessive issues has ever been the vice of the banking system—a vice as prominent in national as in State institutions. This propensity is as subservient to the advancement of private interests in the one as in the other; and those who direct them both, being principally guided by the same views and influenced by the same motives, will be equally ready to stimulate extravagance of enterprise, by improvidence of credit. How strikingly is this conclusion sustained by experience! The Bank of the United States, with the vast powers conferred on it by Congress, did not, or could not, prevent former and similar embarrassments; nor has the still greater strength it has been said to possess under its present charter enabled it, in the existing emergency, to check other institutions, or even to save itself. In Great Britain, where, it has been seen, the same causes have been attended with the same effects, a national bank, possessing powers far greater than are asked for by the warmest advocates of such an institution here, has also proved unable to prevent an undue expansion of credit, and the evils that flow from it.

Nor can I find any tenable ground for the re-establishment of a national bank in the derangement alleged at present to exist in the domestic exchanges of the country, or in the facilities it may be capable of affording them. Although advantages of this sort were anticipated when the first Bank of the United States was created, they were regarded as an incidental accommodation; not one which the Federal Government was bound, or could be called upon, to furnish. This accommodation is now, indeed, after the lapse of not many years, demanded from it, as among its first duties; and an omission to aid and regulate commercial exchange is treated as a ground of loud and serious complaint. Such results only serve to exemplify the constant desire, among some of our citizens, to enlarge the powers of the Government, and extend its control to subjects with which it should not interfere. They can never justify the creation of an institution to promote such objects. On the contrary, they justly excite among the community a more diligent inquiry into the character of those operations of trade, towards which it is desired to extend such peculiar favors.

The various transactions which bear the name of domestic exchanges, differ essentially in their nature, operation, and utility. One class of them consists of bills of exchange, drawn for the purpose of transferring actual capital from one part of the country to another, or to anticipate the proceeds of property actually transmitted. Bills of this description are highly useful in the movements of trade, and well deserve all the encouragement which can rightfully be given to them. Another class is made up of bills of exchange, not drawn to transfer actual capital, nor on the credit of property transmitted, but to create fictitious capital, partaking at once of the character of notes discounted in bank, and of bank notes in circulation, and swelling the mass of paper credits to a vast extent in the most objectionable manner. These bills have formed, for the last few years, a large proportion of what are termed the domestic exchanges of the country, serving as the means of usurious profit, and constituting the most unsafe and

precarious paper in circulation. This species of traffic, instead of being upheld, ought to be discountenanced by the Government and the people.

In transferring its funds from place to place, the Government is on the same footing with the private citizen, and may resort to the same legal means. It may do so through the medium of bills drawn by itself or purchased from others; and, in these operations, it may, in a manner undoubtedly constitutional and legitimate, facilitate and assist exchanges of individuals founded on real transactions of trade. The extent to which this may be done, and the best means of effecting it, are entitled to the fullest consideration. This has been bestowed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and his views will be submitted to you in his report.

But it was not designed by the constitution that the Government should assume the management of domestic or foreign exchange. It is indeed authorized to regulate by law the commerce between the States, and to provide a general standard of value or medium of exchange in gold and silver; but it is not its province to aid individuals in the transfer of their funds, otherwise than through the facilities afforded by the Post Office Department. As justly might it be called on to provide for the transportation of their merchandise. These are operations of trade. They ought to be conducted by those who are interested in them, in the same manner that the incidental difficulties of other pursuits are encountered by other classes of citizens. Such aid has not been deemed necessary in other countries. Throughout Europe, the domestic as well as the foreign exchanges are carried on by private houses, often, if not generally, without the assistance of banks. Yet they extend throughout distinct sovereignties, and far exceed in amount the real exchanges of the United States. There is no reason why our own may not be conducted in the same manner, with equal cheapness and safety. Certainly this might be accomplished, if it were favored by those most deeply interested; and few can doubt that their own interest, as well as the general welfare of the country, would be promoted by leaving such a subject in the hands of those to whom it properly belongs. A system founded on private interest, enterprise, and competition, without the aid of legislative grants or regulations by law, would rapidly prosper; it would be free from the influence of political agitation, and extend the same exemption to trade itself; and it would put an end to those complaints of neglect, partiality, injustice, and oppression, which are the unavoidable results of interference by the Government in the proper concerns of individuals. All former attempts on the part of the Government to carry its legislation, in this respect, further than was designed by the constitution, have in the end proved injurious, and have served only to convince the great body of the people, more and more, of the certain dangers of blending private interests with the operations of public business: and there is no reason to suppose that a repetition of them now would be more successful.

It cannot be concealed that there exist, in our community, opinions and feelings on this subject in direct opposition to each other. A large portion of them, combining great intelligence, activity, and influence, are no doubt sincere in their belief that the operations of trade ought to be assisted by such a connection: they regard a national bank as necessary for this purpose, and they are disinclined to every measure that does not tend, sooner or later, to the establishment of such an institution. On the other hand, a majority of the people are believed to be irreconcilably opposed to that measure: they consider such a concentration of power

dangerous to their liberties: and many of them regard it as a violation of the constitution. This collision of opinion has doubtless caused much of the embarrassment to which the commercial transactions of the country have lately been exposed. Banking has become a political topic of the highest interest, and trade has suffered in the conflict of parties. A speedy termination of this state of things, however desirable, is scarcely to be expected. We have seen, for nearly half a century, that those who advocate a national bank, by whatever motive they may be influenced, constitute a portion of our community too numerous to allow us to hope for an early abandonment of their favorite plan. On the other hand, they must indeed form an erroneous estimate of the intelligence and temper of the American people, who suppose that they have continued, on slight or insufficient grounds, their persevering opposition to such an institution; or that they can be induced by pecuniary pressure, or by any other combination of circumstances, to surrender principles they have so long and so inflexibly maintained.

My own views of the subject are unchanged. They have been repeatedly and unreservedly announced to my fellow-citizens, who, with full knowledge of them, conferred upon me the two highest offices of the Government. On the last of these occasions, I felt it due to the people to apprize them, distinctly, that, in the event of my election, I would not be able to co-operate in the re-establishment of a national bank. To these sentiments I have now only to add the expression of an increased conviction, that the re-establishment of such a bank, in any form, whilst it would not accomplish the beneficial purpose promised by its advocates, would impair the rightful supremacy of the popular will; injure the character and diminish the influence of our political system; and bring once more into existence a concentrated moneyed power, hostile to the spirit, and threatening the permanency, of our republican institutions.

Local banks have been employed for the deposite and distribution of the revenue, at all times partially, and, on three different occasions, exclusively: first, anterior to the establishment of the first Bank of the United States; secondly, in the interval between the termination of that institution and the charter of its successor; and, thirdly, during the limited period which has now so abruptly closed. The connection, thus repeatedly attempted, proved unsatisfactory on each successive occasion, notwithstanding the various measures which were adopted to facilitate or insure its success. On the last occasion, in the year 1833, the employment of the State banks was guarded especially, in every way which experience and caution could suggest. Personal security was required for the safe-keeping and prompt payment of the moneys to be received; and full returns of their condition were, from time to time, to be made by the depositories. In the first stages, the measure was eminently successful, notwithstanding the violent opposition of the Bank of the United States, and the unceasing efforts made to overthrow it. The selected banks performed with fidelity, and without any embarrassment to themselves or to the community, their engagements to the Government; and the system promised to be permanently useful. But, when it became necessary, under the act of June, 1836, to withdraw from them the public money, for the purpose of placing it in additional institutions, or of transferring it to the States, they found it, in many cases, inconvenient to comply with the demands of the Treasury, and numerous and pressing applications were made for indulgence or relief. As the in-

stalments under the deposite law became payable, their own embarrassments, and the necessity under which they lay of curtailing their discounts and calling in their debts, increased the general distress, and contributed, with other causes, to hasten the revulsion in which, at length, they, in common with the other banks, were fatally involved.

Under these circumstances, it becomes our solemn duty to inquire whether there are not, in any connection between the Government and banks of issue, evils of great magnitude, inherent in its very nature, and against which no precautions can effectually guard.

Unforeseen in the organization of the Government, and forced on the Treasury by early necessities, the practice of employing banks was, in truth, from the beginning, more a measure of emergency than of sound policy. When we started into existence as a nation, in addition to the burdens of the new Government, we assumed all the large but honorable load of debt which was the price of our liberty; but we hesitated to weigh down the infant industry of the country by resorting to adequate taxation for the necessary revenue. The facilities of banks, in return for the privileges they acquired, were promptly offered, and, perhaps, too readily received, by an embarrassed Treasury. During the long continuance of a national debt, and the intervening difficulties of a foreign war, the connection was continued, from motives of convenience. But these causes have long since passed away. We have no emergencies that make banks necessary to aid the wants of the Treasury; we have no load of national debt to provide for; and we have on actual deposite a large surplus. No public interest, therefore, now requires the renewal of a connection that circumstances have dissolved. The complete organization of our Government; the abundance of our resources; the general harmony which prevails between the different States, and with foreign powers—all enable us now to select the system most consistent with the constitution, and most conducive to the public welfare. Should we, then, connect the Treasury, for a fourth time, with the local banks, it can only be under a conviction that past failures have arisen from accidental, not inherent defects.

A danger, difficult if not impossible to be avoided in such an arrangement, is made strikingly evident in the very event by which it has now been defeated. A sudden act of the banks intrusted with the funds of the people, deprives the Treasury, without fault or agency of the Government, of the ability to pay its creditors in the currency they have by law a right to demand. This circumstance, no fluctuation of commerce could have produced, if the public revenue had been collected in the legal currency, and kept in that form by the officers of the Treasury. The citizen whose money was in bank, receives it back, since the suspension, at a sacrifice in its amount; whilst he who kept it in the legal currency of the country, and in his own possession, pursues without loss the current of his business. The Government, placed in the situation of the former, is involved in embarrassments it could not have suffered, had it pursued the course of the latter. These embarrassments are moreover augmented by those salutary and just laws which forbid it to use a depreciated currency, and, by so doing, take from the Government the ability which individuals have of accommodating their transactions to such a catastrophe.

A system which can, in a time of profound peace, when there is a large revenue laid by, thus suddenly prevent the application and the use of the money of the people in the manner and for the objects they have directed,

cannot be wise; but who can think, without painful reflection, that, under it, the same unforeseen events might have befallen us in the midst of a war, and taken from us, at the moment when most wanted, the use of those very means which were treasured up to promote the national welfare, and guard our national rights! To such embarrassments and to such dangers will this Government be always exposed, whilst it takes the moneys raised for, and necessary to, the public service, out of the hands of its own officers, and converts them into a mere right of action against corporations intrusted with the possession of them. Nor can such results be effectually guarded against in such a system, without investing the Executive with a control over the banks themselves, whether State or national, that might with reason be objected to. Ours is, probably, the only Government in the world that is liable, in the management of its fiscal concerns, to occurrences like these.

But this imminent risk is not the only danger attendant on the surrender of the public money to the custody and control of local corporations. Though the object is aid to the Treasury, its effect may be to introduce into the operations of the Government influences the most subtle, founded on interests the most selfish.

The use by the banks, for their own benefit, of the money deposited with them, has received the sanction of the Government from the commencement of this connection. The money received from the people, instead of being kept till it is needed for their use, is, in consequence of this authority, a fund on which discounts are made for the profit of those who happen to be owners of stock in the banks selected as depositories. The supposed, and often exaggerated, advantages of such a boon will always cause it to be sought for with avidity. I will not stop to consider on whom the patronage incident to it is to be conferred; whether the selection and control be trusted to Congress or to the Executive, either will be subjected to appeals made in every form which the sagacity of interest can suggest. The banks, under such a system, are stimulated to make the most of their fortunate acquisition; the deposites are treated as an increase of capital; loans and circulation are rashly augmented; and, when the public exigencies require a return, it is attended with embarrassments not provided for nor foreseen. Thus, banks that thought themselves most fortunate when the public funds were received, find themselves most embarrassed when the season of payment suddenly arrives.

Unfortunately, too, the evils of the system are not limited to the banks. It stimulates a general rashness of enterprise, and aggravates the fluctuations of commerce and the currency. This result was strikingly exhibited during the operations of the late deposite system, and especially in the purchases of public lands. The order which ultimately directed the payment of gold and silver in such purchases, greatly checked, but could not altogether prevent, the evil. Specie was, indeed, more difficult to be procured than the notes which the banks could themselves create at pleasure; but still, being obtained from them as a loan, and returned as a deposite, which they were again at liberty to use, it only passed round the circle with diminished speed. This operation could not have been performed, had the funds of the Government gone into the Treasury to be regularly disbursed, and not into banks to be loaned out for their own profit, while they were permitted to substitute for it a credit in account.

In expressing these sentiments, I desire not to undervalue the benefits of a salutary credit to any branch of enterprise. The credit bestowed on

probity and industry is the just reward of merit, and an honorable incentive to further acquisition. None oppose it who love their country and understand its welfare. But, when it is unduly encouraged; when it is made to inflame the public mind with the temptations of sudden and unsubstantial wealth; when it turns industry into paths that lead, sooner or later, to disappointment and distress, it becomes liable to censure, and needs correction. Far from helping probity and industry, the ruin to which it leads falls most severely on the great laboring classes, who are thrown suddenly out of employment, and, by the failure of magnificent schemes never intended to enrich them, are deprived, in a moment, of their only resource. Abuses of credit and excesses in speculation will happen, in despite of the most salutary laws; no Government, perhaps, can altogether prevent them; but surely every Government can refrain from contributing the stimulus that calls them into life.

Since, therefore, experience has shown that to lend the public money to the local banks is hazardous to the operations of the Government, at least of doubtful benefit to the institutions themselves, and productive of disastrous derangement in the business and currency of the country, is it the part of wisdom again to renew the connection?

It is true that such an agency is, in many respects, convenient to the Treasury, but it is not indispensable. A limitation of the expenses of the Government to its actual wants, and of the revenue to those expenses, with convenient means for its prompt application to the purposes for which it was raised, are the objects which we should seek to accomplish. The collection, safe-keeping, transfer, and disbursement of the public money, can, it is believed, be well managed by officers of the Government. Its collection, and, to a great extent, its disbursement also, have indeed been hitherto conducted solely by them; neither national nor State banks, when employed, being required to do more than keep it safely while in their custody, and transfer and pay it in such portions, and at such times, as the Treasury shall direct.

Surely banks are not more able than the Government to secure the money in their possession against accident, violence, or fraud. The assertion that they are so, must assume that a vault in a bank is stronger than a vault in the Treasury; and that directors, cashiers, and clerks, not selected by the Government, nor under its control, are more worthy of confidence than officers selected from the people and responsible to the Government; officers bound by official oaths and bonds for a faithful performance of their duties, and constantly subject to the supervision of Congress.

The difficulties of transfer, and the aid heretofore rendered by banks, have been less than is usually supposed. The actual accounts show that by far the larger portion of payments is made within short or convenient distances from the places of collection; and the whole number of warrants issued at the Treasury in the year 1834—a year, the result of which will, it is believed, afford a safe test for the future—fell short of five thousand, or an average of less than one daily for each State; in the city of New York, they did not average more than two a day; and at the city of Washington, only four.

The difficulties heretofore existing are moreover daily lessened by an increase in the cheapness and facility of communication; and it may be asserted, with confidence, that the necessary transfers, as well as the safe-keeping and disbursements of the public moneys, can be with safety and

convenience accomplished through the agencies of Treasury officers. This opinion has been in some degree confirmed by actual experience since the discontinuance of the banks as fiscal agents, in May last; a period which, from the embarrassments in commercial intercourse, presented obstacles as great as any that may be hereafter apprehended.

The manner of keeping the public money, since that period, is fully stated in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. That officer also suggests the propriety of assigning by law certain additional duties to existing establishments and officers, which, with the modifications and safeguards referred to by him, will, he thinks, enable the Department to continue to perform this branch of the public service, without any material addition either to their number or to the present expense. The extent of the business to be transacted has already been stated; and, in respect to the amount of money with which the officers employed would be intrusted at any one time, it appears that, assuming a balance of five millions to be at all times kept in the Treasury, and the whole of it left in the hands of the collectors and receivers, the proportion of each would not exceed an average of thirty thousand dollars; but that deducting one million for the use of the Mint, and assuming the remaining four millions to be in the hands of one-half of the present number of officers—a supposition deemed more likely to correspond with the fact—the sum in the hands of each would still be less than the amount of most of the bonds now taken from the receivers of public money. Every apprehension, however, on the subject, either in respect to the safety of the money, or the faithful discharge of these fiscal transactions, may, it appears to me, be effectually removed, by adding to the present means of the Treasury, the establishment by law, at a few important points, of offices for the deposite and disbursement of such portions of the public revenue as cannot, with obvious safety and convenience, be left in the possession of the collecting officers until paid over by them to the public creditors. Neither the amounts retained in their hands, nor those deposited in the offices, would, in an ordinary condition of the revenue, be larger, in most cases, than those often under the control of disbursing officers of the army and navy, and might be made entirely safe, by requiring such securities and exercising such controlling supervision as Congress may by law prescribe. The principal officers, whose appointments would become necessary under this plan, taking the largest number suggested by the Secretary of the Treasury, would not exceed ten; nor the additional expenses, at the same estimate, sixty thousand dollars a year.

There can be no doubt of the obligation of those who are intrusted with the affairs of Government to conduct them with as little cost to the nation as is consistent with the public interest; and it is for Congress, and ultimately for the people, to decide whether the benefits to be derived from keeping our fiscal concerns apart, and severing the connection which has hitherto existed between the Government and banks, offer sufficient advantages to justify the necessary expenses. If the object to be accomplished is deemed important to the future welfare of the country, I cannot allow myself to believe that the addition to the public expenditure, of comparatively so small an amount as will be necessary to effect it, will be objected to by the people.

It will be seen by the report of the Postmaster General, herewith communicated, that the fiscal affairs of that Department have been successfully conducted since May last, upon the principle of dealing only in the legal

practice, continued to dispense with the currency required by the act of 1789, and took the notes of banks, in full confidence of their being paid in specie on demand; and Congress, to guard against the slightest violation of this principle, have declared, by law, that, if notes are paid in the transactions of the Government, it must be under such circumstances as to enable the holder to convert them into specie without depreciation or delay.

Of my own duties, under the existing laws, when the banks suspended specie payments, I could not doubt. Directions were immediately given to prevent the reception into the Treasury of any thing but gold and silver or its equivalent; and every practicable arrangement was made to preserve the public faith, by similar or equivalent payments to the public creditors. The revenue from lands had been for some time substantially so collected, under the order issued by directions of my predecessor. The effects of that order had been so salutary, and its forecast in regard to the increasing insecurity of bank paper had become so apparent, that, even before the catastrophe, I had resolved not to interfere with its operation. Congress is now to decide whether the revenue shall continue to be so collected or not.

The receipt into the Treasury of bank notes not redeemed in specie on demand, will not, I presume, be sanctioned. It would destroy, without the excuse of war or public distress, that equality of imposts and identity of commercial regulation which lie at the foundation of our confederacy, and would offer to each State a direct temptation to increase its foreign trade, by depreciating the currency received for duties in its ports. Such a proceeding would also, in a great degree, frustrate the policy, so highly cherished, of infusing into our circulation a larger proportion of the precious metals; a policy, the wisdom of which none can doubt, though there may be different opinions as to the extent to which it should be carried. Its results have been already too auspicious, and its success is too closely interwoven with the future prosperity of the country, to permit us for a moment to contemplate its abandonment. We have seen, under its influence, our specie augmented beyond eighty millions; our coinage increased so as to make that of gold amount, between August, 1834, and December, 1836, to ten millions of dollars,—exceeding the whole coinage at the Mint during the thirty-one previous years.

The prospect of further improvement continued without abatement until the moment of the suspension of specie payments. This policy has now, indeed, been suddenly checked, but is still far from being overthrown. Amidst all conflicting theories, one position is undeniable: the precious metals will invariably disappear when there ceases to be a necessity for their use as a circulating medium. It was in strict accordance with this truth, that whilst, in the month of May last, they were everywhere seen, and were current for all ordinary purposes, they disappeared from circulation the moment the payment of specie was refused by the banks, and the community tacitly agreed to dispense with its employment. Their place was supplied by a currency exclusively of paper, and, in many cases, of the worst description. Already are the bank notes now in circulation greatly depreciated, and they fluctuate in value between one place and another; thus diminishing and making uncertain the worth of property and the price of labor, and failing to subserve, except at a heavy loss, the purposes of business. With each succeeding day, the metallic currency decreases; by some it is hoarded, in the natural fear that, once parted with,

itcan not be replaced; while, by others, it is diverted from its more legitimate uses for the sake of gain. Should Congress sanction this condition of things, by making irredeemable paper money receivable in payment of public dues, a temporary check to a wise and salutary policy will, in all probability, be converted into its absolute destruction.

It is true that bank notes, actually convertible into specie, may be received in payment of the revenue, without being liable to all these objections; and that such a course may, to some extent, promote individual convenience—an object always to be considered where it does not conflict with the principles of our Government, or the general welfare of the country. If such notes only were received, and always under circumstances allowing their early presentation for payment; and if, at short and fixed periods, they were converted into specie, to be kept by the officers of the Treasury, some of the most serious obstacles to their reception would, perhaps, be removed. To retain the notes in the Treasury, would be to renew, under another form, the loans of public money to the banks, and the evils consequent thereon.

It is, however, a mistaken impression, that any large amount of specie is required for public payments. Of the seventy or eighty millions now estimated to be in the country, ten millions would be abundantly sufficient for that purpose, provided an accumulation of a large amount of revenue, beyond the necessary wants of the Government, be hereafter prevented. If to these considerations be added the facilities which will arise from enabling the Treasury to satisfy the public creditors, by its drafts or notes receivable in payment for the public dues, it may be safely assumed that no motive of convenience to the citizen requires the reception of bank paper.

To say that the refusal of paper money by the Government introduces an unjust discrimination between the currency received by it, and that used by individuals in their ordinary affairs, is, in my judgment, to view it in a very erroneous light. The constitution prohibits the States from making any thing but gold and silver a tender in the payment of debts; and thus secures to every citizen a right to demand payment in the legal currency. To provide by law that the Government will only receive its dues in gold and silver, is not to confer on it any peculiar privilege, but merely to place it on an equality with the citizen, by reserving to it a right secured to him by the constitution. It is doubtless for this reason that the principle has been sanctioned by successive laws, from the time of the first Congress under the constitution, down to the last. Such precedents, never objected to, and proceeding from such sources, afford a decisive answer to the imputation of inequality or injustice.

But, in fact, the measure is one of restriction, not of favor. To forbid the public agent to receive in payment any other than a certain kind of money, is to refuse him a discretion possessed by every citizen. It may be left to those who have the management of their own transactions to make their own terms; but no such discretion should be given to him who acts merely as an agent of the people; who is to collect what the law requires, and to pay the appropriations it makes. When bank notes are redeemed on demand, there is then no discrimination in reality, for the individual who receives them may, at his option, substitute the specie for them; he takes them from convenience or choice. When they are not so redeemed, it will scarcely be contended that their receipt and payment, by a public officer, should be permitted, though none deny that right to an individual;

if it were, the effect would be most injurious to the public, since their officer could make none of those arrangements to meet or guard against the depreciation, which an individual is at liberty to do. Nor can inconvenience to the community be alleged as an objection to such a regulation. Its object and motive are their convenience and welfare.

If, at a moment of simultaneous and unexpected suspension by the banks, it adds something to the many embarrassments of that proceeding, yet these are far overbalanced by its direct tendency to produce a wider circulation of gold and silver, to increase the safety of bank paper, to improve the general currency, and thus to prevent altogether such occurrences, and the other and far greater evils that attend them.

It may, indeed, be questioned, whether it is not for the interest of the banks themselves that the Government should not receive their paper. They would be conducted with more caution, and on sounder principles. By using specie only in its transactions, the Government would create a demand for it, which would, to a great extent, prevent its exportation, and, by keeping it in circulation, maintain a broader and safer basis for the paper currency. That the banks would thus be rendered more sound, and the community more safe, cannot admit of a doubt.

The foregoing views, it seems to me, do but fairly carry out the provisions of the federal constitution in relation to the currency, as far as relates to the public revenue. At the time that instrument was framed, there were but three or four banks in the United States; and had the extension of the banking system, and the evils growing out of it, been foreseen, they would probably have been specially guarded against. The same policy which led to the prohibition of bills of credit by the States, would, doubtless, in that event, have also interdicted their issue as a currency in any other form. The constitution, however, contains no such prohibition; and since the States have exercised, for nearly half a century, the power to regulate the business of banking, it is not to be expected that it will be abandoned. The whole matter is now under discussion before the proper tribunal—the people of the States. Never before has the public mind been so thoroughly awakened to a proper sense of its importance; never has the subject, in all its bearings, been submitted to so searching an inquiry. It would be distrusting the intelligence and virtue of the people to doubt the speedy and efficient adoption of such measures of reform as the public good demands. All that can rightfully be done by the Federal Government, to promote the accomplishment of that important object, will, without doubt, be performed.

In the mean time, it is our duty to provide all the remedies against a depreciated paper currency which the constitution enables us to afford. The Treasury Department, on several former occasions, has suggested the propriety and importance of a uniform law concerning bankruptcies of corporations and other bankers. Through the instrumentality of such a law, a salutary check may doubtless be imposed on the issues of paper money, and an effectual remedy given to the citizen, in a way at once equal in all parts of the Union, and fully authorized by the constitution.

The indulgence granted by executive authority, in the payment of bonds for duties, has been already mentioned. Seeing that the immediate enforcement of these obligations would subject a large and highly respectable portion of our citizens to great sacrifices, and believing that a temporary postponement could be made without detriment to other interests, and with increased certainty of ultimate payment, I did not hesitate to

comply with the request that was made of me. The terms allowed are, to the full extent, as liberal as any that are to be found in the practice of the Executive Department. It remains for Congress to decide whether a further postponement may not, with propriety, be allowed; and, if so, their legislation upon the subject is respectfully invited.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will exhibit the condition of these debts; the extent and effect of the present indulgence; the probable result of its further extension on the state of the Treasury; and every other fact necessary to a full consideration of the subject. Similar information is communicated in regard to such depositories of the public moneys as are indebted to the Government, in order that Congress may also adopt the proper measures in regard to them.

The receipts and expenditures for the first half of the year, and an estimate of those for the residue, will be laid before you by the Secretary of the Treasury. In his report of December last, it was estimated that the current receipts would fall short of the expenditures by about three millions of dollars. It will be seen that the difference will be much greater. This is to be attributed not only to the occurrence of greater pecuniary embarrassments in the business of the country than those which were then predicted, and, consequently, a greater diminution in the revenue, but also to the fact that the appropriations exceeded, by nearly six millions, the amount which was asked for in the estimates then submitted. The sum necessary for the service of the year, beyond the probable receipts and the amount which it was intended should be reserved in the Treasury at the commencement of the year, will be about six millions. If the whole of the reserved balance be not at once applied to the current expenditures, but four millions be still kept in the Treasury, as seems most expedient, for the uses of the Mint, and to meet contingencies, the sum needed will be ten millions.

In making this estimate, the receipts are calculated on the supposition of some further extension of the indulgence granted in the payment of bonds for duties, which will affect the amount of the revenue for the present year to the extent of two and a half millions.

It is not proposed to procure the required amount by loans or increased taxation. There are now in the Treasury nine millions three hundred and sixty-seven thousand two hundred and fourteen dollars, directed by the act of the 23d of June, 1836, to be deposited with the States in October next. This sum, if so deposited, will be subject, under the law, to be recalled, if needed, to defray existing appropriations; and, as it is now evident that the whole, or the principal part of it, will be wanted for that purpose, it appears most proper that the deposite should be withheld. Until the amount can be collected from the banks, Treasury notes may be temporarily issued, to be gradually redeemed as it is received.

I am aware that this course may be productive of inconvenience to many of the States. Relying upon the acts of Congress which held out to them the strong probability, if not the certainty, of receiving this instalment, they have in some instances adopted measures with which its retention may seriously interfere. That such a condition of things should have occurred, is much to be regretted. It is not the least among the unfortunate results of the disasters of the times; and it is for Congress to devise a fit remedy, if there be one. The money being indispensable to the wants of the Treasury, it is difficult to conceive upon what principle of justice or expediency

its application to that object can be avoided. To recall any portion of the sums already deposited with the States, would be more inconvenient and less efficient; to burden the country with increased taxation, when there is in fact a large surplus revenue, would be unjust and unwise; to raise moneys by loans under such circumstances, and thus to commence a new national debt, would scarcely be sanctioned by the American people.

The plan proposed will be adequate to all our fiscal operations, during the remainder of the year. Should it be adopted, the Treasury, aided by the ample resources of the country, will be able to discharge, punctually, every pecuniary obligation. For the future, all that is needed will be, that caution and forbearance in appropriations which the diminution of the revenue requires, and which the complete accomplishment or great forwardness of many expensive national undertakings, renders equally consistent with prudence and patriotic liberality.

The preceding suggestions and recommendations are submitted, in the belief that their adoption by Congress will enable the Executive Department to conduct our fiscal concerns with success, so far as their management has been committed to it. Whilst the objects, and the means proposed to attain them, are within its constitutional powers and appropriate duties, they will, at the same time, it is hoped, by their necessary operation, afford essential aid in the transaction of individual concerns, and thus yield relief to the people at large, in a form adapted to the nature of our Government. Those who look to the action of this Government for specific aid to the citizen, to relieve embarrassments arising from losses by revulsions in commerce and credit, lose sight of the ends for which it was created, and the powers with which it is clothed. It was established to give security to us all, in our lawful and honorable pursuits, under the lasting safeguard of republican institutions. It was not intended to confer special favors on individuals, or on any classes of them; to create systems of agriculture, manufactures, or trade; or to engage in them, either separately or in connection with individual citizens or organized associations. If its operations were to be directed for the benefit of any one class, equivalent favors must, in justice, be extended to the rest; and the attempt to bestow such favors with an equal hand, or even to select those who should most deserve them, would never be successful.

All communities are apt to look to Government for too much. Even in our own country, where its powers and duties are so strictly limited, we are prone to do so, especially at periods of sudden embarrassment and distress. But this ought not to be. The framers of our excellent constitution, and the people who approved it with calm and sagacious deliberation, acted at the time on a sounder principle. They wisely judged that the less Government interferes with private pursuits, the better for the general prosperity. It is not its legitimate object to make men rich, or to repair, by direct grants of money or legislation in favor of particular pursuits, losses not incurred in the public service. This would be, substantially, to use the property of some for the benefit of others. But its real duty, that duty the performance of which makes a good Government the most precious of human blessings, is to enact and enforce a system of general laws commensurate with, but not exceeding, the objects of its establishment; and to leave every citizen and every interest to reap, under its benign protection, the rewards of virtue, industry, and prudence.

I cannot doubt that on this, as on all similar occasions, the Federal

Government will find its agency most conducive to the security and happiness of the people, when limited to the exercise of its conceded powers. In never assuming, even for a well meant object, such powers as were not designed to be conferred upon it, we shall, in reality, do most for the general welfare. To avoid every unnecessary interference with the pursuits of the citizen, will result in more benefit than to adopt measures which could only assist limited interests, and are eagerly, but perhaps naturally, sought for, under the pressure of temporary circumstances. If, therefore, I refrain from suggesting to Congress any specific plan for regulating the exchanges of the country, relieving mercantile embarrassments, or interfering with the ordinary operations of foreign or domestic commerce, it is from a conviction that such measures are not within the constitutional province of the General Government, and that their adoption would not promote the real and permanent welfare of those they might be designed to aid.

The difficulties and distresses of the times, though unquestionably great, are limited in their extent, and cannot be regarded as affecting the permanent prosperity of the nation. Arising, in a great degree, from the transactions of foreign and domestic commerce, it is upon them that they have chiefly fallen. The great agricultural interest has, in many parts of the country, suffered comparatively little; and, as if Providence intended to display the munificence of its goodness at the moment of our greatest need, and in direct contrast to the evils occasioned by the waywardness of man, we have been blessed, throughout our extended territory, with a season of general health and of uncommon fruitfulness. The proceeds of our great staples will soon furnish the means of liquidating debts at home and abroad, and contribute equally to the revival of commercial activity and the restoration of commercial credit. The banks, established avowedly for its support, deriving their profits from it, and resting under obligations to it which cannot be overlooked, will feel at once the necessity and justice of uniting their energies with those of the mercantile interest. The suspension of specie payments, at such a time, and under such circumstances as we have lately witnessed, could not be other than a temporary measure; and we can scarcely err in believing that the period must soon arrive when all that are solvent will redeem their issues in gold and silver. Dealings abroad naturally depend on resources and prosperity at home. If the debt of our merchants has accumulated, or their credit is impaired, these are fluctuations always incident to extensive or extravagant mercantile transactions. But the ultimate security of such obligations does not admit of question. They are guarantied by the resources of a country, the fruits of whose industry afford abundant means of ample liquidation, and by the evident interest of every merchant to sustain a credit, hitherto high, by promptly applying these means for its preservation.

I deeply regret that events have occurred which require me to ask your consideration of such serious topics. I could have wished that, in making my first communication to the assembled representatives of my country, I had nothing to dwell upon but the history of her unalloyed prosperity. Since it is otherwise, we can only feel more deeply the responsibility of the respective trusts that have been confided to us, and, under the pressure of difficulties, unite in invoking the guidance and aid of the Supreme Ruler of Nations, and in laboring with zealous resolution to overcome the difficulties by which we are environed.

It is, under such circumstances, a high gratification to know, by long

experience, that we act for a people to whom the truth, however unpromising, can always be spoken with safety; for the trial of whose patriotism no emergency is too severe, and who are sure never to desert a public functionary honestly laboring for the public good. It seems just that they should receive, without delay, any aid in their embarrassments which your deliberations can afford. Coming directly from the midst of them, and knowing the course of events in every section of our country, from you may best be learnt as well the extent and nature of these embarrassments, as the most desirable measures of relief.

I am aware, however, that it is not proper to detain you, at present, longer than may be demanded by the special objects for which you are convened. To them, therefore, I have confined my communication; and, believing it will not be your own wish now to extend your deliberations beyond them, I reserve, till the usual period of your annual meeting, that general information on the state of the Union which the constitution requires me to give.

M. VAN BUREN.

WASHINGTON, *September 4th*, 1837.

DOCUMENTS

ACCOMPANYING THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE TWO HOUSES OF CONGRESS, AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

REPORT

OF

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
September 4, 1837.

SIR: Immediately after the suspension of specie payments by the banks in New York, in May last, a circular was sent out, directing all postmasters who had been instructed to deposite the proceeds of their officesin banks, to retain them in specie, to meet the drafts of the department.

To those who had been instructed to pay directly to contractors, anothe circular was sent, reminding them of their duties and liabilities in referenc to the moneys to be received and paid by them under existing laws.

Instructions have recently been prepared, directing the manner in which returns of cash on hand are hereafter to be made to the department, and forbidding the loaning or use of the moneys belonging to the public, for any purpose whatsoever. Copies of these papers are annexed, marked A, B, and C.

In relation to upwards of ten thousand of the post offices, these regulations make no change. The only change effected by them is, that about eleven hundred postmasters, who formerly deposited their income in banks, weekly, monthly, or quarterly, according to its amount, now retain the money in their own hands till drawn for by the department. To about nine-tenths of these, the new system is more convenient than the old, as it saves them the trouble of going or sending to the banks and procuring certificates of deposite; it is equally safe, as their entire balances will be drawn for as often as they deposited; and it is more efficient, because some postmasters, who might neglect to deposite, will not venture to dishonor a draft.

The postmasters who will not close their accounts quarterly, will not, probably, exceed one hundred; and the balances in their hands, from quarter to quarter, are not likely, under a proper administration of the department, to exceed, in ordinary times, one or two hundred thousand dollars. As they are required to have their balances always ready in gold and silver, the department will always have the means of meeting its engagements; and if a default in an individual case should occasionally happen, nothing like a general refusal to pay, as in the case of the late deposite banks, is ever to be apprehended.

It will ever be the true policy of the department not to have a large sur-

plus, and, consequently, there will be little to intrust to the custody of postmasters or others. Moreover, the number of post offices now instructed to retain their funds, will be largely reduced upon an adjustment of the collection system to the mail service, as arranged within the last twelve months.

Though in some places convenient, banks are not necessary to the collection and disbursement of the funds of this department. In reference to more than ten thousand post offices, the collections and disbursements are effected more expeditiously and more conveniently without the interposition of banks, than they could be with it. The contractors who are creditors of the department, are its collectors from postmasters, and the collection and disbursement are but one operation. It is generally effected in a few days after the close of each quarter. The operation is the same where the postmasters pay to contractors upon the drafts of the department, though it is more tardy. The few offices, in reference to which banks are a convenience, are those whose receipts are large, and are not likely to be absorbed from quarter to quarter by the drafts of the department. They have generally iron chests or safes where the specie is kept; and, with a strict supervision and careful attention to their bonds, they will seldom, if ever, be found in default.

The necessary transfers of funds are effected by the department without inconvenience or loss. On the interior mail routes, the expenditure is generally greater than the income; so that after the contractors have received the entire revenue of the offices supplied by them, balances are still due. These balances are as readily paid off by drafts on the postmasters in the cities where the surplus arises, as they could be by checks on banks in the same places. The process is rendered the more easy, from the fact, that the heaviest surplus accrues at those points where funds are the most valuable, particularly at New York; so that the drafts of the department to pay balances in the most distant parts of the Union are generally better than cash, being available for mercantile remittances. Thus, the necessary transfers of the department are readily effected; and as this state of things is not likely to change, it would seldom, if ever, become necessary for the department to transport specie from one point to another, if there was not a bank in existence.

Upon the suspension of the banks, efforts were made in some quarters to compel the department to receive irredeemable and depreciated paper for postages. Law, justice, and public policy required an inflexible resistance of these efforts. Gold and silver are the only constitutional and legal currency of the United States, and nothing but that currency, or its equivalent, can be legally offered to the public creditors in payment. All taxes and postages are imposed in this currency, and all contracts are made upon its basis. The public faith could be kept, and the public business successfully carried on, only by a strict adherence to the plain letter as well as obvious spirit of the law.

The undersigned is happy to state, that all attempts to force the department to receive depreciated paper were soon abandoned; that little difficulty has been experienced in collecting postages in specie, and none where the circulation of change tickets has been successfully resisted; and that the credit of the department has been preserved unimpaired. Nor is any difficulty apprehended, so long as postages are collected in the constitutional currency of the United States. But, should the department be compelled

to receive, and offer to its creditors, the depreciated notes issued by hundreds of embarrassed, faithless, or bankrupt corporations or individuals, no sure calculation can be made as to the future; and there is reason to apprehend general discontent, extensive failures, and deplorable disorganization throughout the mail service. With what face could the department insist on, and compel, a strict performance of contract obligations by contractors, when stripped of the power to perform the most vital part of the contracts (so far as the interest of the contractor is concerned) on its own part? Justice and sound policy alike demand a firm adherence, in the mail service, to the standard of value, and the basis of contracts, prescribed by the constitution, and hitherto strictly maintained, (except for a short period,) amidst the calamities of war.

On the whole, no legislation is necessary to maintain the credit of this department, or enable it to manage its fiscal concerns; the existing laws being deemed ample for those purposes.

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,
AMOS KENDALL.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

A.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
———— 1837.

SIR: You will, until further orders, retain the proceeds of your office in your hands, *in specie*, to meet the drafts of this department.

I am, respectfully,
Your obedient servant.

Postmaster at

B.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Appointment Office, Washington, May 16, 1837.

SIR: I am instructed by the Postmaster General to call your *particular* attention to the fact, that the rates of postage, as established by law, are based upon *the legal currency of the United States*. The following extracts from the printed regulations and the law, will clearly show what are your duties and responsibilities in relation to the kind of currency to be received for postage, viz:

"You will receive nothing but specie, or its equivalent, for postage."—*Instructions to Postmasters*, chapter 5, section 62.

"All payments to the department, whether upon its drafts, or by deposite in bank, must be in specie, or its equivalent. No allowance can be made

to postmasters for the depreciation of money received for postage, nor for losses by fire, robbery, or theft."—Chapter 28, section 245.

Extract from an act of Congress, approved on the 14th of April, 1836.

"SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted*, That, hereafter, no bank notes of less denomination than ten dollars, and that from and after the 3d day of March, anno Domini 1837, no bank note of less denomination than twenty dollars, shall be offered in payment, in any case whatsoever in which money is to be paid by the United States, or by the Post Office Department; nor shall any bank note, of any denomination, be so offered, unless the same shall be payable, and paid on demand, in gold or silver coin at the place where issued, and which shall not be equivalent to specie at the place where offered, and convertible into gold or silver upon the spot, at the will of the holder, and without delay or loss to him: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to make any thing but gold or silver a legal tender by any individual, or by the United States."

Hence, you will perceive that, whatever you may receive for postage, you are responsible for gold or silver; and that it is *unlawful* for you to offer in payment to contractors, or others, any note of any bank which does not pay its notes in specie. As the Postmaster General has no power to release you from your responsibilities under the laws, and as, on the contrary, it is his duty to see them faithfully executed, he has deemed it expedient to give you this notice, that you may guard yourself against loss in the collection of your postages.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
ROBERT JOHNSTON,
Second Assistant Postmaster General.

C.

Postmasters, who may be under instructions to retain the proceeds of their offices until drawn for by the department, will observe the following regulations, viz:

Those whose nett proceeds are five hundred dollars or more per week, will report the amount weekly to the department. Fractions of weeks at the beginning and end of quarters need not be reported separately.

Those whose nett proceeds are not five hundred dollars per week, but amount to that sum or more per month, will report them monthly. The last month of each quarter need not be reported separately.

At the end of each quarter, all postmasters at draft offices will immediately ascertain the amount of nett revenue accruing at their respective offices during the quarter, and report it forthwith to the department, setting down the sums, if any, which may have been reported weekly or monthly, and deducting them, thus exhibiting the balance not reported.

All these reports must be *by letter, addressed to the Postmaster General*, which must be sent separately, and not enclosed with the quarterly accounts, or tied to them, or to any other letter or packet on other business.

Nor must it be delayed until the accounts are forwarded, if it can be sent sooner.

Postmasters will not be permitted to use or loan out any of the moneys belonging to the department, but will keep them always on hand to meet its drafts. A violation of this regulation will be considered good cause for instant removal and prosecution. Every draft must be paid on presentation.

The travelling agents of the department will be instructed to call occasionally on the draft offices, without notice, for the purpose of counting and reporting the cash on hand, and reporting also the manner in which it is kept.

25th CONGRESS,
1st Session.

REPORT

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

On the Finances.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1837.
Read, and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
September 5, 1837.

In pursuance of the duty of this department to submit to Congress, at each session, the state of the finances; and in conformity with the request of the President, that such other fiscal matters should, on this occasion, be presented, as appear to require early legislation, the undersigned has the honor to offer the following report.

I. CONDITION OF THE TREASURY.

It is not proposed to give all the particulars, relating to the receipts and expenditures, which usually accompany an annual statement. But an exposition of them, under the customary general heads, so far as they have been ascertained, for the first half of the year, is subjoined.

Brief estimates for the other half are made, and such explanations added, as seem necessary to show with clearness not only the condition of the Treasury at this time, but its probable state for the residue of the year.

According to the Treasurer's running account, the whole amount of available money in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1837, applicable to public purposes, was $42,468,859 97. From that sum, there were on that day reserved $5,000,000; and the balance, being $37,468,859 97, was, under the provisions of the act of June 23, 1836, to be placed in deposite with the States. It is ascertained that $27,063,430 80 of it have since been actually received by them.

The amount of that portion of the first three instalments, the payment of which has not yet been acknowledged, though transfers were seasonably issued for it, is $1,165,575 18. The remainder is $9,367,214 98, and is the sum which was designed for the fourth instalment of deposites with the States on the 1st of October next. The amount reserved in the Treasury on the 1st of January has since been increased, by returns subsequently received from banks, to the sum of $6,670,137 52; and which, of course, could not then be ascertained or taken into computation.

Blair & Rives, printers.

RECEIPTS.

The receipts in the first half of the year, deposited in the banks, and paid on drafts by collectors and receivers, so far as ascertained, have been:

From customs	$7,234,451
From lands	5,303,731
And from miscellaneous sources	512,263

To these may be added about $600,000 which remained in the hands of receivers, and $50,000 in those of collectors, subject to draft. All these make the aggregate for that half of the year $13,187,182. If no further postponement be granted on duty bonds, it is estimated that the whole receipts for the last half of the year, from all sources, will be about $9,500,000; which would make them, as ascertained and estimated for the whole year, $22,687,182. But if the brief extension of the present postponement, brought into view hereafter, and favorably regarded, be directed by Congress, the receipts will probably be about $7,000,000; while, by a postponement of the whole to another year, they will not be likely to exceed $4,500,000.

Looking at our whole revenue, therefore, from all quarters, it appears that the balance of money reserved at the commencement of the year, as finally ascertained to be $6,670,137, with the actual receipts for the first half at $13,187,182, and those now anticipated for the last half of it at $7,000,000, will constitute an aggregate of $26,857,319.

EXPENDITURES.

The expenditures during the first half of the year were, for

Civil, miscellaneous, and foreign intercourse	$2,812,540 40
Military, including pensions	10,603,361 49
Naval	3,297,149 69
Public debt	20,832 75
Making an aggregate of	$16,733,884 33

The expenditures required to meet existing appropriations, during the last half of the year, will, as computed, equal the sum of $16,000,000; making for the whole year $32,733,884.

Whatever expenditures shall arise within the year, upon new appropriations which Congress may think proper to make, will require a corresponding addition to this amount. But, without them, it will constitute an excess of $5,876,565 of expenditures, over both the receipts and the balance at the commencement of the year; besides not leaving, at the close of it, any thing in the Mint or the Treasury for future uses, or to meet contingencies.

In order, therefore, to discharge that excess, and retain, of the money reserved on the 1st of January, one million, which is the smallest sum deemed proper, under the acts of Congress, for the efficient operations of the Mint, and at least three or four millions more, to answer sudden and contingent calls, there will probably be a necessity to resort to the deposites now with the States, and to the instalment destined for them in October, or to some other resource, for a sum equal to $10,000,000. By a report

of the Treasurer of the 30th ultimo, it appears that the balance in the Treasury, including what was in the custody of banks, the Mint, and collecting officers, was then $14,596,311; that the amount of this, subject to immediate draft, was only $8,928,072; but the whole balance in the Treasury, including all which had been deposited with the States, and ordered to be, though only a small part of the amount is subject to immediate draft, was $41,532,381. Deduct all which has been, and was designed to be, deposited with the States, and there would be no balance left on hand subject to draft, though including every thing in the Mint, and in the possession of receivers and collectors, which is applicable to general purposes.

Hence it is probable, that, besides the deficiency for the expenditures of the year, no sufficient means of any kind will exist on the 1st of October next, after defraying the intervening expenses, to complete the instalment of deposites then payable, unless a large part of the bonds for duties postponed to that day, and amounting to near $4,000,000, and the million and a half then due on the first bond from the United States Bank, shall be punctually paid, or, in the mean time, some provision on this subject made by Congress.

The money standing to the special credit of the Post Office Department and the Patent Office, as well as various trusts, is not included in the above exhibit, for reasons explained in the last annual report. Outstanding and unexpended appropriations at the end of the year will, in this view of our financial condition, be still left charged on the Treasury, amounting to about $16,000,000.

This does not differ much from their amount at the close of the last year. Whether the appropriations unexpended on the 1st of January, 1838, prove, therefore, to be one or two millions larger or smaller than is now anticipated, it must be manifest, from all the above data, that some new legislation is indispensable to complete satisfactorily the service of the year, and leave a suitable amount in the Mint and the Treasury.

Indeed, before submitting the last annual report, the indications of a decrease in the receipts, and of an approaching revulsion in our commercial prosperity, appeared so strong to the undersigned, that he felt compelled, with reluctance and regret, because differing so much from the views of many others, to estimate the accruing receipts for the year at only $24,000,000.

As the appropriations asked for were about $27,000,000, it was then suggested that the occurrence of a deficiency was probable. When those appropriations became in fact enlarged by Congress to more than $32,000,000, it rendered a deficiency inevitable, to the extent now anticipated, unless the receipts should happen greatly to exceed the estimates.

II. ON THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE PAYMENT OF BONDS FOR DUTIES.

The first suggestions which will be submitted concerning such special legislation as appears proper in consequence of the recent embarrassments of the country, relate to the postponement of the payment of bonds for duties.

Early in May last, the collection of the revenue from customs became much obstructed through the severe pecuniary difficulties of the mercantile interest. The Treasury Department felt an anxiety not only to take steps

which might increase the security of the Government for eventual payment, but, in an emergency so great, and to many so unexpected, to furnish all the relief from sacrifices which could judiciously be extended under its limited powers, and in anticipation of what would probably be its straitened condition in a few months.

A postponement of the payment of the bonds falling due was, therefore, and in accordance with the views of the Executive, authorized for periods of from thirty to ninety days, on interest and additional security, and in a manner more liberal than usual, by permitting it before as well as after suit, in all cases of embarrassment, great hardship, or insolvency.

The particular terms, and the reasons for such postponement, are more fully set forth in the documents annexed. (A. Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the collector at New York. B. Instructions of the Solicitor of the Treasury.)

When the difficulties in discharging bonds in a legal currency became increased by the suspension of specie payments in some of the principal cities, and the President decided to call a special session of Congress, the postponement was allowed to be extended till after the commencement of the session, in order that an opportunity might be afforded to obtain further relief by new legislation. Urgent requests were made for an indiscriminate delay of payment on all bonds to the 1st of January next, and for the receipt, in discharge of them, of notes issued by banks not paying specie. (See memorials from New York, Boston, and New Orleans, and copies of a reply to one of them, and letter to collector of New York. C, D, E, and F 1 and 2.)

It was not deemed proper to comply with these requests. But as long a delay as our fiscal situation justified, and every relief as to the currency which seemed legal, by the receipt of debenture certificates and Treasury drafts, for duties, were permitted in mitigation of the existing embarrassments.

Having, in this, done all that a sound and liberal exercise of the discretion of the department appeared either to justify or require, no intention exists, nor would it be proper in the present state of the Treasury, to grant any indulgences beyond those already authorized, without the express direction of Congress.

Some further facts which may be useful to aid its members in coming to a correct conclusion on this subject, are, that the amount of bonds which have already been postponed to the 1st of October is about $3,500,000, and by that date will, it is presumed, be increased to $4,000,000.

If Congress permit no longer postponement, the receipts for the year will probably be increased by the indulgences already granted, as they have been allowed, generally, on additional security, and always on interest.

But as suits and delays in collection will still occur, though to a less extent than in the first stages of the pressure, it is expected that not over two-thirds of the amount postponed before the close of this month can be collected during the current year.

The bonds already put in suit since the middle of May amount to nearly $1,000,000. But if Congress extend the postponement till next January, as was originally requested by some of the parties, or for one year, as recently requested by the chamber of commerce of New York, (F 3,) the receipts for the present year will probably be thereby lessened from four to five millions.

Should Congress, however, adopt an intermediate course, as an act not of mere benevolence, but of additional relief, which appears reasonable, under the extraordinary mercantile distresses of the times, and more safe to the Government, in respect to eventual collections, it might sanction a delay not to exceed, altogether, six months beyond the original period of payment, in any particular case. It is computed that this would diminish the receipts, during the present year, about two and a half millions of dollars; but if granted on the usual terms, would increase the receipts, next year, in a greater proportion, by the interest accruing, as well as by the fuller collections which would probably be made in a greater number of cases.

The opinion of the department on these various propositions is, that, considering merely our present financial necessities, no further postponement can be regarded as expedient, though in some other respects, as fully detailed in the recent letter from the chamber of commerce, (F 3,) the last delay mentioned might be found justifiable, and more beneficial. But if a law be passed extending credit on the bonds, it is supposed that, in any correct view of the subject, its provisions need not be continued in force beyond the period when the worst effects of the pressure will be likely to have ceased, and when all imports could, by a further extension of the warehouse system, be advantageously made payable in cash, at the time the goods are wanted for immediate consumption.

The extension of that system is, therefore, respectfully recommended to the consideration of Congress, in connexion with the present subject, as it might introduce as great an improvement in the collection of imposts, as the substitution of cash for credit did in the collection of revenue from the sales of public lands. It would certainly increase the security, ease, and promptitude of the operation; would dispense entirely with the trouble and risk in the payment of debentures; work favorably to the manufacturing interests; and, at the same time, facilitate our trade in foreign articles, as well as exonerate the merchant from many embarrassments in regard to sureties and guaranties.

III. OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF TRANSFERRING THE LAST INSTALMENT OF DEPOSITES TO THE STATES.

Early legislation has likewise become necessary, either to withhold or postpone, for a reasonable period, the fourth instalment of deposites with the States, or to furnish such aid as may be necessary to complete them in a satisfactory manner.

By the general suspension of specie payments, and the consequent necessity, under the deposite act, to discontinue most of the public depositories, the transfers from the banks in the west and southwest to the seaboard, which were necessary to place much of the money in a position to be conveniently lodged with the States in October, have, in several instances, been defeated. They had, as in case of the former instalments, been ordered seasonably, though, as a general rule, only where rendered proper, in consequence of great accumulation of public funds in an unfavorable situation, on account of the course of trade and exchanges, to be paid directly to the respective States. But, in the troubled condition of the money market, they had not been injuriously hastened as to the time of payment, and, consequently, falling due in the course of the summer and early in autumn, near two-thirds of the whole amount of these

funds still on hand have been detained in the west and southwest, where they had so unusually augmented from the large sales of public lands. Hence, if the last deposite with the States was, in this position of the money, to be attempted, the orders directing it must, in many cases, be made on places remote, and very inconvenient to some of the receiving States, on account of the unfavorable balance of trade, or the rates of exchange; and must be met, if at all, in a currency unacceptable and greatly depreciated. Transfers of portions of the July instalment could not, from the same cause, be effected in the precise mode intended, nor from the banks most desirable, though much of it had reached the appropriate points, to render the operation easy, before the suspension of specie payments. In all cases in which they were not offered to be paid in a currency satisfactory to the States, their agents were requested to return the orders of transfer till Congress could make new and suitable provisions on the subject. (See form of letter and postscript to States, G.)

But this request has not always been complied with. About $1,165,575 of that instalment has not yet been receipted for by the States to the Treasury, nor the orders returned. On the contrary, the United States Bank chartered by the State of Pennsylvania has lately become the purchaser of several of these orders, though not given for any debt, but merely directing a transfer from one public depository to another. This institution has demanded of the banks on which they are drawn that payment should be made to her in specie; and, on their failing to do so, has caused the orders to be protested. Under these circumstances, and, as the deposites with the States were to be made of what was in the Treasury, and consequently in the banks, on the 1st of January last, it is for Congress to decide whether payment shall be made of any of those orders in a mode and currency different from the rest of the third instalment of deposites with the States.

Another reason for withholding or postponing the October deposites, or for some legal provision to aid in completing them, is, that a sum equal to the revenue probably accruing, and a large portion of these deposites, had, before they were payable, been expressly appropriated by Congress to other objects. When looking to the rapid decrease in our receipts, to the expected deficiency in the course of the year, and the great amount of outstanding appropriations which, at the close of it, will be left unpaid, much of that whole instalment seems likely to be needed at an early day. By either of the first two measures, the money could, according to its original destination, be applied to the necessary wants of the General Government, as soon as it can be drawn from the banks in legal funds. In that way, so desirable an object would also be accomplished, without the expense and delay of the money being first paid over to the States, and then subjected to an early recall. On the other hand, several of the States might, in the present posture of their affairs, experience considerable inconvenience, either by not receiving it, or by soon refunding a large portion of its amount; and many of the banks which hold it might be able more satisfactorily to pay it to the States than to the Treasury. But, though the subject is one of much delicacy and difficulty, and peculiarly proper for the final action of Congress, it may be expected that this department should express some opinion as to which course appears most eligible in the present condition of the finances. It is, therefore, with deference suggested, that when regarding their condition and the importance of meeting with efficiency and good faith all the obligations of the Government to the public creditors, it would be most judi-

cious to apply the whole instalment, as fast as it is wanted and can be collected, to the prompt discharge of these obligations; and that the last deposite with the States, not being a debt, but a mere temporary disposal of a surplus, should be postponed until Congress, in some different state of the finances, when such an available surplus may exist, shall see a manifest propriety and ability in completing the deposite, and shall give directions to that effect. Consequently, no further steps will be taken as to the deposite of any part of that instalment till Congress has had an opportunity to act upon the subject in such manner as, in the present posture of affairs, its superior wisdom may consider preferable.

IV. DIFFICULTY IN PAYING THE APPROPRIATIONS, AND ON THE ISSUE OF TREASURY NOTES.

Some further obstacles exist in the way of discharging satisfactorily all the appropriations which have been made by Congress.

The effects which may be produced upon the accruing revenue, by granting or withholding further delays on bonds for duties, have already been explained.

In addition to these, there is a likelihood, in the present pressure, that the payment of cash duties, to the extent of one million of dollars more than usual, will be unavoidably deferred to another year, as the importers under the existing laws are entitled to certain delays, by keeping in store the woollen goods which pay such duties.

This circumstance, in connexion with the difficulty of collecting the bonds, whether longer postponed or not, will sensibly increase the embarrassments which have been specially pointed out, and otherwise exist in paying with promptitude, and in a legal manner, the large appropriations chargeable upon the residue of the current year.

Hence, after a considerable deficiency in the available means became highly probable, it was deemed expedient to adopt any judicious and lawful measure to remedy it, which was within the power of the department. Accordingly, though large quantities of public lands were still in market unsold, and though the receipts from this source during the year would be higher than anticipated, in consequence, among other things, of a construction put on the pre-emption laws, admitting a large class of settlers to entries, it was supposed that some further tracts, in places much desired by the new States, might prudently be offered. A few such have been advertised; but sufficient time, after due notice, has not yet elapsed to realize any thing from them.

If the fourth instalment of the deposites with the States be deferred, and the difficulty in seasonably transferring it be thus removed, yet, being chiefly in the custody of banks not paying specie, it is manifest that it cannot be immediately realized in funds suitable to meet existing appropriations. If it be not deferred, some further provision will be still more indispensable to enable the Treasury not only to place it with the States, but to pay all the public creditors and officers in a satisfactory manner, until the duties now due from the merchants, and the funds now in the discontinued deposite banks, can be collected. It is true, that a resort to the States for refunding portions of the large sums already deposited with them would also remain by law; but under the limitations of the act of June, 1836, it would be very slow in its operation, and, if complied with,

would prove entirely insufficient to answer such an urgent occasion as the present. During the ensuing quarter, the whole amount that could be legally recalled would not exceed six hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Hence it seems expedient, either in aid or exclusion of a requisition on the States, as may be deemed most suitable by Congress, to provide some temporary resource until enough of the fourth instalment, or other means in the Treasury, can be rendered available to discharge all the public engagements. It need not be a loan, or an increase of taxes of any kind; as the General Government, in respect to its finances, whatever temporary embarrassment the recent convulsions in commerce and banking may have created, is far from having any just cause for despondency. It is neither overwhelmed with a national debt, nor destitute of large pecuniary resources on hand; but, entirely free from the former, it is so amply supplied with the latter as to have in the Treasury over forty millions of dollars, and eight or ten millions more in bonds, which will soon become payable. But a large portion being in deposite with the States, and the residue chiefly in banks and the hands of merchants, under the difficulties before named, in procuring promptly, and in a legal currency, the amounts of money which are needed, some collateral aid for a short period, till a sufficiency can be collected, appears to be judicious, if not indispensable.

It is fortunate that the energies of the country, generally, are not paralyzed, nor its prospects clouded by any great physical calamities; and hence its immediate wants can, without doubt, be provided for in various ways.

One mode would be, to authorize the issue of Treasury notes, receivable for all public dues, but without interest. These would differ from the drafts or checks now in use, only as the latter are given for immediate payment, and drawn on persons and banks having public money sufficient to meet them; and, consequently, the holders must be exposed to the trouble and expense of presenting them at the places where payable. Still they are nearly on a par with specie. In the present deranged state of bank paper and exchanges, and in the favorable condition of the General Government, by its ample resources and exemption from pecuniary liabilities, to impart the greatest confidence in respect to the redemption of such notes, it is probable that they would readily be taken at par by most of the public creditors. Especially would this be likely to happen, provided they were issued in denominations as low as twenty, fifty, and one hundred dollars; and not in too large quantities, but used only in anticipation of the accruing revenue on occasional emergencies and to a limited amount.

Contrary to expectation, should the department, during the present delinquency of many of the public debtors, be exposed to such very large calls, and collect so little revenue, as not to be able, by both the above notes and drafts, to meet all its engagements in a satisfactory manner, it would be desirable that the President should possess a contingent authority to cause Treasury notes to be issued, bearing an interest not to exceed six per cent.

Specie could always be raised on these for the public creditor, when he preferred it. But as notes bearing much interest would soon cease to be used in circulation, (and if they should not, would, as a currency, be troublesome in the computation of interest, and too strongly tend to exclude specie from the country,) it might be advisable not to make them receivable, at first, for any public dues, but only to resort to that measure afterwards, when it should be found convenient for redeeming them.

In connexion with the issue of any Treasury notes, it is believed to be wise to make ample provision for their early and final redemption. This could be accomplished by enacting, that when the money on hand in the Treasury and the Mint, available for public purposes, may exceed a given amount of four or five millions, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause these notes (securing priority to any on interest) to be redeemed to such an extent as the surplus may exceed that sum, and what will probably be needed to defray current expenses. It being believed that a reduction of the tariff, and suitable regulations concerning the sales of public land, ought at a proper time to be put in force, so as to prevent any large and regular accumulation in the Treasury, the department would respectfully propose, that, in case of any unexpected excess beyond the sums above specified, it should merely be invested, in a temporary manner, in safe State stocks, at their market rate, subject to be sold again whenever the proceeds shall be wanted to discharge existing appropriations.

An additional consideration in favor of these measures is, that since the payment of the public debt, which absorbed any occasional surplus of receipts, it is impossible, according to the views expressed in some previous reports from the undersigned, that, with sources of revenue so fluctuating as ours, and so dependant on commercial prosperity, any fiscal operations should be long continued with ease, vigor, and uniformity, without some such regulator as a power to issue and redeem Treasury notes, or to invest and sell the investment of surpluses. By any other course we shall constantly be exposed to great deficiencies, or excesses, with all their attendant embarrassments. If depositing the excesses with the States, subject to be recalled to supply deficiencies, the pecuniary profit to the whole Union will be no greater, while such a course may involve us in a series of vexatious demands on them, accompanied by various dangers both to them and the General Government; and, in the mean time, it is feared will, in many instances, tend to excite excesses and evils similar to some of those under which the country is now suffering.

V. ON THE SAFE-KEEPING OF THE PUBLIC MONEY HEREAFTER.

The arrangements for keeping the public money, which had been in successful operation for a few years previous to the passage of the deposite act of 1836, became partially embarrassed by carrying into effect some of its provisions. But the enforcement of them all, where not entirely perfected, was in seasonable progress in May last, when the department was compelled by the act to give notice to such of the selected banks as had suspended specie payments that they could no longer be considered as general depositories of the public moneys. (See circular, I.)

A list is annexed of all before employed in that capacity, which have been discontinued. (K.)

After due inquiries to procure other depositories, in conformity to the act, the department has completed the appointment of only one. This, and four more that have not suspended, with one that has resumed specie payments, (making six in all,) constitute the present bank depositories for general purposes. A schedule of them is added. (L.)

During the inability to obtain specie-paying banks at other points, the

Treasurer, being required by the closing part of the 8th section of the act, to keep and disburse the public money according to the laws before in force, has done it in conformity to the very wide discretion which existed when no rules were in force, that had been prescribed by Congress, except to "keep" and "disburse the same" under the general superintendence of the Secretary of the Treasury. A part of it has, therefore, been kept in special deposite in this city, a portion of it in the Mint, and the residue with the officers collecting it, until it was wanted for public purposes, or until it accumulated in such sums at any point as not to be, probably, wanted there for such use. (See two circulars, M and N.) In the first case, it has, from time to time, been applied to the payment of creditors, by drafts on the receivers or collectors; and in the last, the excess has been directed to be temporarily placed with banks not remotely situated, and in special deposite for safety, until wanted for expenditure elsewhere, or until some new legislation shall take place in relation to it.

Under these circumstances, the department would respectfully suggest some provisions which may be more specific, and may be required for the safe-keeping and disbursing of the public moneys.

In the present condition of the Government and the country, two systems are proposed, either of which, it is believed, may be practicable and adequate to the exigencies of the crisis. One is, an enlargement and adaptation of the system partially employed since the suspension of specie payments, so as to make it answer all necessary purposes. This could be effected merely by assigning to our existing officers and establishments some additional duties.

The Treasurer, at the seat of Government; the Mint, with its branch at New Orleans, and another which has been contemplated, and is much needed at New York, for other purposes; collectors of the customs, and receivers of money for the sales of land, as well as postmasters, might all be directed to keep in safety, not only the public money collected by them, but all actually placed in their possession, by transfer or otherwise. As fiscal agents, they might, also, be required to pay over and transfer it for such public purposes as may be authorized by Congress, and under such regulations as the Treasury Department from time to time may prescribe. Indeed, the third section of the post office law of 1825, with the bond taken under it as to the agency of the postmasters, is, perhaps, already sufficiently broad for that class of officers. At points like New York, and a few others, where a likelihood existed that the sums would permanently be large, but which, under a reduced revenue and expenditure, would seldom occur, authority might be given to appoint the clerks now acting as cashiers or tellers under the collectors and receivers, or other more suitable persons, to act as keepers and paymasters of the public money. But they should be made independent of the collectors and receivers, and placed under the like tenure of office, and under suitable bonds. Additional means of safety, and such additional but limited compensation to any of the above officers, might be provided as the increased risk and labor might render just; but in only a few cases would these last be much augmented at any place.

Taking the year 1834 as furnishing a specimen sufficiently large of the probable business in future connected with the general operations of the Treasury Department, but, of course, not including the separate establishment of the post office, the whole number of warrants issued in that year was a little under five thousand; and, though differing much in actual

amount, averaging about $5,000 each. This would be less than twenty warrants a day, and hence would require less than one per day to be paid in each of the twenty-six States. They differed, in fact, from four per day in this District, and two per day in New York, which were the highest numbers, to only one per week in several of the States. (See table P.) The business at each office daily, or even weekly, in making payments of the drafts, would, therefore, be very little. If more than one draft issued on a warrant, the business would be increased in that proportion, unless the whole payments were reduced, as is probable, hereafter, to sixteen or seventeen millions yearly.

In regard to the risk, five millions in the Treasury at any one time, if all placed in the hands of collectors and receivers, would not, on an average, exceed $30,000 with each of the present number.

But if the amount, besides one million in the Mint, was chiefly in the hands of half the present number, which would approach nearer to the probable result, the sum with each would still be less than most of the existing bonds of receivers; and when exceeding theirs, or those of the principal collectors, the excess, in most cases, could be readily prevented, or reduced, by being drawn out to pay creditors, or be conveniently transferred to the Treasurer of the United States, at the seat of Government, or to the Mint and its branches. Until one of the latter is authorized at New York, the substitute before mentioned, of one of the present officers in the customs there as an independent keeper and paymaster of the public money, could be adopted, and, if deemed prudent, be extended to any other similar place.

In this mode, the present number of officers connected with the collection and disbursement of the revenue throughout the United States need not be at all increased. Nor will it become necessary, except in a few cases, to augment their compensation. Twenty or thirty thousand dollars a year would probably cover the whole additional expense of every kind.

The other system to which the attention and consideration of Congress are respectfully invited, is, a new organization, by means of commissioners or receivers general, to gather the collections to more central points, and keep and disburse there a large portion of the public money, or such as could not be kept safely and expended conveniently in the hands of the collecting officers. Such an organization might be at only three or four of the most important points; or it might be made more extensive, and the number enlarged to eight or ten. This could be arranged, in all essential particulars, substantially, in the manner which is now in very successful practice in some of the most enlightened and opulent Governments of Europe, and as was urgently recommended by this department as early as 1790. (See extract O.) The only material difference need be, to pay out more of the money near the places where it is collected, rather than first to transmit most of it to the seat of Government. This organization of fiscal agents would be advantageous as a separate establishment for this business alone, and as an independent check on most of those collecting the revenue. But it would require some addition to the present number of officers, and in the first instance would more increase the public expenses.

But the whole addition of principal officers need not exceed ten. Nor would the increased annual expense to the Government probably amount to over fifty or sixty thousand dollars, as the system would enable both the War and Navy Departments to dispense with several of

their agents for making local disbursements. The danger of any losses will be nearly the same under both plans. It is impossible to conduct the affairs of Government, or the ordinary transactions of society, without trust and risk of some kind. But one great object, wherever pecuniary confidence is reposed, should always be to require the best safeguards which appear reasonable; and in either of these systems, as hereafter explained, the amount trusted can be more easily kept from becoming excessive, and the hazard of losses, affecting the deposite agent by his lending or trading, be fully obviated, by the strict prohibition of both the latter, under severe penalties.

Our direct losses from either collecting or deposite agents have always been comparatively small. Those by the former, it is believed, have not equalled those by the latter, though the latter, being banks, have usually in the end paid most of their deposites. The losses by the former are also supposed not to have exceeded one-fifth of those on the bonds of merchants for duties, and probably not one-eighth of those from the purchasers of public lands, under the credit system.

Occasional and strict examinations of the money on hand, where large in amount, would furnish a strong safeguard beyond the character of the officer, and the property of himself and sureties, and which it might be provided should be made by a committee of Congress, or in any other mode deemed most eligible to constitute an effectual check.

The plans which have been explained as to fiscal agents, are suggested for consideration, under a belief that either is appropriate in the present posture of affairs; that they require but slight changes in our existing laws or usages; and, whatever objections can be adduced against them, will, at the same time, be found to possess many signal advantages.

They will not, so much as some other modes of keeping the public money, expose the Treasury to disappointments and delays, through a dangerous partnership of interest, or the use of that money for private or corporate purposes. As the vicissitudes of trade or speculation affect the persons who borrow from the public banking depositories, the evil consequences must sometimes inevitably reach and embarrass the Treasury itself. Nor, on the other hand, will these modes, like our former one, cause frequent injury to those who, trading on the revenue of the Government, are subject to be most pressed to refund it, when least able. It is believed, likewise, that the funds of the Treasury can be always more readily commanded in a legal currency, and the hopes of its creditors not defeated, nor its faith violated so often, if the money is not loaned out, either in full or in part, but, as in other countries, is retained in specie or its equivalent, and in the actual custody of officers exclusively fiscal. In other countries, the public money is believed to be seldom, if ever, chargeable to the Treasurer, till it is either paid over on some draft, so that he can get credit for the payment, (and which mode is practised somewhat in England, as well as here, and extensively in France,) or lodged, not in deposite in any bank, but in his own possession at the seat of Government. In the former mode, the systems now proposed, and especially the first one, would operate so as to disburse at each point most of the public money collected near, and would thus enable the Treasury to command its resources with less delay; the money not being previously paid over at some distance, and to a separate set of agents, as has usually been the practice here in the use of banks; nor much of it transported

inconveniently to the capital, as has usually been the practice elsewhere. This mode would thus possess one of the greatest excellences in any fiscal system; which is, to pay over quickest to the public creditor, and with the least official complexity, whatever is collected from the public debtor.

Besides these advantages, others would be, that the money in the Treasury, under both of the plans submitted, can always be more easily kept down to moderate dimensions by reductions in the revenue, and by temporary investments of an occasional surplus, as there will be no antagonist interest connected with it, wishing for loans and the use of surpluses, and thus co-operating to prevent a reduction.

The existing establishments and officers, whenever convenient, would be employed without a double machinery or the organization of a new system of agents. Executive control would be diminished rather than increased by them, because any additional officers will be selected, not by the President alone, nor the Treasury Department, as the banks now are, but virtually be designated by Congress, and the principal incumbents appointed by the consent of the Senate. They would also remove all ground for the objection sometimes urged against the former system, that the Executive alone exercises an extensive patronage and great moneyed influence through a host of bank presidents, directors, and stockholders, scattered through every section of the country, and selected without the assent or check of either House of Congress in any particular case, and making loans of the public money from considerations merely political or official. A very wide discretion will be thus restricted, and a prolific source of suspicion and imputation of favoritism and partiality be entirely stopped.

The officers, under the plans proposed, will likewise be amenable exclusively to the General Government, and not be embarrassed, like the officers of the banks, by conflicting duties and interests in respect to the States; nor involved in those collisions, jealousies, and recriminations, often attendant on that position.

The independent and harmonious action of each Government in its appropriate sphere will thus be more fully secured. The local institutions, as a general principle, will be left to the care and uses of the several States which established them, without interference on the part of the General Government, and to be regulated or discontinued, as deemed most useful, under their own State policies, and most conducive to the original purposes of their creation. Nor would any general moneyed corporation, aside from the grave doubts which exist as to both its constitutionality and general expediency, have been likely in such a crisis as that of the war of 1812, or perhaps that of the last spring, to have proved a much safer public depository than those local institutions. Though more convenient in form for fiscal purposes than they, and free from some objections as to want of symmetry and accountability which obtain against them, yet, if chartered on usual principles, and judging from experience here as well as abroad, it must have failed, in a trial like those, to have sustained either our pecuniary operations, or its own, in strict good faith and in due vigor.

Without entering into details to illustrate this position, it is necessary to notice only the single circumstance, that the Bank of England, during a severe war, suspended specie payments near a quarter of a century, and that neither of the two United States Banks existed so as to be obliged to encounter such a peril. But since the last spring, the notes of the second one, to the amount of several millions, have been allowed to sink

into the mass of irredeemable and depreciated paper, though issued under all the high securities and sanctions of a charter from the General Government, and with very large funds, still under the control of officers and trustees deemed by the stockholders exceedingly skilful, and bound by both law and contract to redeem those notes in specie, and on demand.

The systems which have been proposed in this report, if adopted, could not be expected to continue entirely exempt from losses by that unfaithfulness or casualty to which all trusts in human affairs are exposed. But they may be surrounded with strong safeguards, and would very probably soon be enabled to answer in a satisfactory manner every purpose of the Government, in its condition so different in many respects from that which formerly existed, and which was the paramount cause urged for the incorporation of our two former United States Banks. Its finances are not now burdened with a national debt of from seventy to one hundred and thirty millions, and, besides our ordinary expenses, with the annual payment, on account of principal and interest, of from ten to sixteen millions, to be first widely collected, and then transferred and disbursed at only a few points on the seaboard. It is now with a yearly revenue, reduced from thirty and forty millions to near twenty, and probably soon to be only sixteen or seventeen, and with a course of expenditure which can readily be diminished so as not much, if any, to exceed the revenue in a natural state of business. In large sections of our country, and in such a state of business, this expenditure happens nearly and very conveniently to correspond in amount with the receipts in the same sections.

We are, likewise, reposing in peace, with very superior means of communication, whether by mail or personal intercourse, and with a greatly increased and increasing portion of gold in the currency, to render distant transfers and payments more easy. It is manifest, therefore, that our fiscal concerns will be greatly lessened in amount as well as difficulty, unless we shall be visited by wars or other scourges involving us in debts and embarrassments of an aggravated character, and which, fortunately, no sufficient reason appears for anticipating at an early day.

Under the proposed arrangements, the transfers from certain points could be often effected, when required by the department for public purposes, not only with ease, but so as greatly to facilitate the domestic exchanges, in the mode of employing drafts suggested in a subsequent portion of this report. In a more natural and ordinary state of receipts and expenditures, like that in 1834, the transfers required to a great distance would not exceed two or three millions during the year; and almost the whole of them were, at that time, in such a direction as to yield a profit, rather than be expensive to the banks which made them.

If the Treasurer were required to receive payment in advance, at certain convenient points, for all lands sold, as has once been the construction of the act of 1820, the probability is, that very soon all the unfavorable transfers rendered necessary would become quite unimportant in amount, and less expensive than the transportation of specie and paper has been heretofore, from the distant land offices to the nearest deposite banks, before much of it was paid to the public creditors. It will be seen that, by these modes of keeping the public money, it would not be indispensable to employ any banks as a prescribed part of the system, although it might sometimes be convenient to use them as individuals do, and as subordinate fiscal officers often do, in other countries, for the deposite and transfer of large sums, and

particularly for special deposites, when looking merely to safety and an early occasion to use the money.

No act of Congress, until the charter of the last Bank of the United States in 1816, required the public money in the Treasury to be kept on deposite in any bank whatever. The whole subject was left to the discretion of this department. Even that charter permitted the Secretary of the Treasury to remove the deposites from the Bank of the United States, when he thought proper.

In the supplemental report from this department, in 1834, on the keeping and disbursing of the public money, a state of things like the present was adverted to and considered. It was observed, in regard to such an occurrence, that it will then "become necessary to devolve these duties on some receiver or collector already in office, or on some safe agent not now in office, as has been the practice for years in this country in paying pensions at convenient places, near which there was no State bank or branch of the United States Bank, and as has long been the usage in some countries of Europe, by having the revenue in certain districts chiefly received, kept, and transmitted through private agents and brokers."

But it was added, that "though the fiscal operations of the Government could, undoubtedly, still proceed through the personal agencies before mentioned," and without any banks, State or national; yet "it would be at some inconvenience and increase of expense, unless remedied in a manner that may hereafter be developed, and would not, in the opinion of this department, and in the present condition of things, be so eligible a system as the present one; because banks, though exposed to some dangers and evils, and though not believed to be necessary for the fiscal purposes of any Government, and much less of one in the present happy financial situation of ours, are frankly acknowledged to be, in many respects, a class of agents economical, convenient, and useful."

The use of State banks had then been adopted, and was proceeding satisfactorily. For more than two years after, it continued to be in successful operation, so far as regarded both convenience and safety. But now, most of the State banks have ceased to pay specie even for their own notes, and many have paid out, if not issued, small bills, so as not to be in a situation either to be retained or to become fiscal agents, in conformity to the requisitions of the deposite act. A few others, who are in a legal situation to be selected, decline to receive the public money under some of the conditions prescribed by the act.

Nor is any national bank in existence, or, independent of its inexpediency in a political view, supposed to be capable of being established constitutionally. Hence it is respectfully submitted to Congress, under all the above considerations, whether the early adoption of one of the plans proposed is not proper, and would not be highly conducive to the public interests.

VI. SETTLEMENT WITH THE FORMER DEPOSITE BANKS.

Another subject that appears to require the early action of Congress is, the further indulgence which it may be proper to extend to such of the former deposite banks as are still indebted to the United States.

The facts which are supposed to be necessary to aid Congress in forming a correct decision on this subject will be fully submitted. The perils to which

those banks were exposed had caused to the department much solicitude for several months before the suspension of specie payments, and led to some precautionary suggestions which it felt bound to make to them, so far as appeared consistent with the usual principles of banking in this country, and not calculated, by creating sudden alarm, to hasten the catastrophe hat has since happened.

Besides the general cautions with respect to the excesses of bank issues, and the dangerous consequences likely to ensue, which were detailed in the last annual Treasury report, several instances occurred where the course of the business of some of the depositories appearing from their returns to be injudicious, special letters of advice were deemed proper, and were written. A rigid system in requiring additional specie was also pursued in all cases of unusual deficiency. In regard to the effect of these steps on the banks, it affords the undersigned pleasure to add, that, from the completion of their selection after the deposite act passed, to the last returns before their suspension, a great reduction in the circulation, as well as discounts of many of them, had taken place, and, in several cases, a much larger proportion of specie was kept on hand. Indeed, considering the extraordinary amount of public money paid out by them between last November and May, amounting to near twenty millions more than their receipts during the same period, it is a fact highly creditable to their prudence and ability, that the specie of all was reduced only from about fifteen to thirteen millions, and their circulation, instead of increasing, fell from near forty-one to thirty-seven millions.

As a whole, their specie, compared with their circulation, continued to be almost as large in May as in November. It averaged more than one to three, or much more than has been customary with the banks in this country, and was over double the relative quantity held by all the banks in England at the same period, and was in a proportion one-fourth larger than that in the Bank of England itself. Their immediate means, compared with their immediate liabilities, were somewhat stronger in November than in May, but were at both periods nearly 1 to 2½, or greater than the usual ratio, in the best times, of most banks which have a large amount of deposites in possession. (See table Q.)

In this condition of things, the suspension of specie payment by the deposite banks was an event not generally anticipated.

The policy since pursued by most of them has been favorable to an early discharge of their engagements to the Treasury, and to a resumption of specie payments. Many have gradually reduced their discounts and circulation, as well as paid over much of the public deposites. This may be more fully seen in the tables annexed. (Statement of a few heads of condition in November, March, July, May, and August—see Q.) Since the 1st of May, their discounts, as a whole, have been reduced about $20,388,776, their circulation $4,991,791, and their public deposites $15,607,316; while their specie has diminished less than $3,000,000. Of the number of eighty-six banks employed at the time of the suspension, ten or eleven are supposed to have paid over all the public money which was then in their possession, to the credit of the Treasurer. In the custody of more than half the others, an aggregate of less than $700,000 remains unadjusted. Several of the rest still possess large sums; but many of them have continued promptly to furnish such payments from time to time, for meeting the public necessities, that, according to the last weekly statement, the whole balance to his

credit remaining unpaid in all of them, was only $12,418,041. The amount thus retained by each, may be seen in the schedule annexed. (R.)

The course adopted in respect to the deposites of disbursing officers, after the suspension of specie payments, and with a view to safety, as well as to encourage the early resumption of such payments, may be seen more fully in the document annexed. (See circular, S.)

It was considered proper to proceed, and attempt to withdraw all the public money from the discontinued agents, as fast as it was wanted for public purposes, and as new and suitable depositories could be procured to receive any thing obtainable beyond such amount. But while the former agents appeared to be secure, and to be making proper efforts to meet such calls, it seemed more conducive to the eventual safety of the money, and more consistent with true wisdom, as well as the convenience of the Treasury, to refrain from unnecessary prosecutions and costs till the early session of Congress, which had been called, in part, for the consideration of this subject. On the contrary, when any of the banks persisted in neglecting to pursue the prudent course of curtailment, and in making no reasonable efforts to discharge the drafts on them in an acceptable manner, the department considered it a duty, however unpleasant, to deliver their agreements and bonds to the Solicitor of the Treasury for suit. This has already been done in nine cases; in some as a matter of precaution, to obtain additional security beyond what had been given; and in others, to take the preliminary steps for an action against the sureties as well as the principals.

Some of the additional banks, rendered necessary to carry into effect one of the provisions of the late deposite act, have, on this occasion, proved the least prompt and efficient in meeting their obligations. But though the losses of a few may be severe, and considerable delay may arise in discharging their engagements; and though it has been proper, and has evinced a commendable state of moral feeling in many of them, to strike at the root of the present excesses in paper, by curtailing largely both their issues and discounts, and thereby to make serious sacrifices; yet the condition of them all appears to be such as will, with the collateral security taken in most cases, render the United States probably safe against any ultimate loss. Considering the wide-spread pressure of the times, which had involved some of the banks, as well as their debtors, in extraordinary embarrassments; and that the public money, as a general rule, had previously been called from them only in moderate sums, as needed for expenditure and transfer, it was not to be expected that several of them would be able to pay over at once, and in specie, the whole of the large amount then in their possession.

More especially was this not to be expected, when, from the great accumulation of deposites, the specie of all of them at the time of the suspension, as well as for many months before, though larger than the proportion held by most other banks, did not equal, and could not, without making a sudden and great change in the practice under our whole banking system, equal one-half of their indebtedness to the Government alone. It is presumed that a considerable portion of the money since, as well as formerly, paid by the banks on transfers and drafts, has not been demanded nor paid in specie.

But no persons have been required to accept any thing else, nor, according to the views of the undersigned, could they be, without a violation of law and sound policy.

The drafts of the Treasurer for debts, when drawn on banks and not discharged on presentment, have, under instructions from this department, been often taken up in its behalf by the collectors and receivers, in order as much as possible to relieve the public creditor from delay and loss. (See F, and circular instructions, T.) New drafts, when the first ones were not paid in an acceptable manner, have also in some cases been given on other depositories, and have helped to promote satisfactory adjustments.

Since the discontinuance of most of the banks as depositories, this department has also found the use of drafts made directly on receivers and collectors very acceptable to the public creditors; and by the specie fortunately then on hand, and since collected by the receivers, with a part of what was before in the Mint, and some occasionally supplied by a few of the banks and collectors, a large amount of claims has been paid, and the Treasury is ready to pay others, so far as practicable, at points and in a manner convenient to many. But, till the indebted banks resume specie payments, or increased collections can be made in specie of what is due from them and from the merchants, it must be obvious that the department, however anxious to pay all the public creditors and officers in specie, when demanded, is unable to accomplish so desirable an object.

This is one of the evils incident to the existing state of the moneyed concerns of the country, and which cannot be remedied unless Congress furnish additional means, until specie payments are generally resumed. Some intermediate losses, by a depreciation of bank notes, must, therefore, fall on those, whether creditors or officers of the Government, who consent to take them rather than submit to delays in payment.

Hence it seems highly reasonable that the Government should hasten, as fast as possible, the restoration of specie payments, at least by its former fiscal agents who are still in its debt.

This would put an end to such losses. It also seems proper that those deposite banks, which have not generally answered the demands on them, but have continued to receive full interest on the deposites they had loaned out, should be required to pay it on the sums still retained, and from the periods when they failed to fulfil their obligations to the Treasury. It is manifest that the members of Congress, coming from every section of the country, would be the best judges of what further lenity or severity might properly be exercised towards them, and, knowing more intimately the causes and consequences of the suspension of specie payments by the banks in their respective neighborhoods, can decide with greater accuracy whether any indulgence could hereafter be extended to them appropriately, except on the condition of an early resumption of specie payments, and an allowance of interest during any delay in meeting their fiscal engagements. With the means of information possessed by the undersigned, he does not hesitate to express an opinion, that it should not be done without a compliance with such conditions. As further evidence of the ability of most of them on this subject, it will be necessary only to advert to the abstract of their last returns, which has been previously annexed.

From the mode of doing business in the southwest, by making much of their circulation not redeemable at home, but at distant points, and providing for it there by bills of exchange, (so many of which, during the past season, have failed to be paid,) the situation of several of the banks there is least eligible not only for an early resumption of specie payments, but for a speedy and satisfactory adjustment of their debts to the Government. But

in the western, and probably in the eastern and middle States, if not elsewhere, the ability to sustain such payments appears, by their returns, much greater than has been customary in this country. Their specie, compared with their circulation, is as one to two, and one to three; and their immediate means, compared with their immediate liabilities, are over one to three. Hence it has been hoped that the efforts which the banks were bound to make would lead, in most places, to the desirable events above mentioned, without very long delay.—(See circular, V.) The objection usually urged against an early resumption, that the unfavorable balance of trade against this country would, in that event, cause some of the specie in the banks to be drawn out and shipped, will, however true in point of fact, possess much less force when it is considered that the delay hitherto has not prevented the export of specie. On the contrary, considerable sums, which were in ordinary circulation, have, since the suspension, been withdrawn, and a portion of them sent abroad, while their place is badly supplied with depreciated paper. So happily adjusted, however, are the laws of trade, even in their influence on the precious metals, that while our custom-house books show an export since the 15th of May last, chiefly to England and France, of $3,708,320 of specie, they show during the same time imports, chiefly from other quarters, of $3,140,020. Though the actual imports and exports have both doubtless exceeded those amounts since that period, and the ratio of difference has been somewhat greater, yet the total drain has been much less than many have imagined, and produced less effect on the general ability of the country and the banks to have specie payments resumed and successfully sustained. Congress having power to pass a bankrupt law, it would be worthy of consideration, if the power be ever exercised, whether all banks, and in any event, as recommended by Mr. Dallas and Mr. Crawford, all employed by the Treasury, should not be subjected to its provisions, and, on any important and deliberate failure in their pecuniary duties, be compelled at once to close their concerns.

In respect to the banks in the District of Columbia, as well as others connected with the General Government, it seems desirable that the measures adopted in relation to them, by Congress, should have a strong tendency to encourage the earliest resumption of specie payments which is practicable and safe. For this purpose, little doubt can exist, that while those measures will be the most salutary which shall evince a due liberality and forbearance to the extent really required by the crisis, they should, beyond that, be rigorous in exacting the adoption of such steps as are sanctioned by the sound principles of currency and the public faith. They will then help, at an early day, to relieve the community, as well as the Treasury, from a condition of the circulating medium, which, so far as it consists of bank paper irredeemable in specie, is one of the worst scourges which can be inflicted on society. It is no less hostile to the best maxims of political economy, than usually subversive of every just sense of both moral and legal obligation.

VII. ON THE MONEY RECEIVABLE FOR PUBLIC DUES.

The kind of money or currency receivable for public dues, is another embarrassment, concerning which legislation has been deemed proper by many. A change in the existing practice has been requested by others

without legislation. But, since the suspension of specie payments by the banks, no change, which should sanction the receipt of bank paper not redeemable in specie, has been thought either prudent or permissible by this department. Nor will such an one be adopted without the express direction of Congress. (See F 1 and 2.)

Believing that specie is the best standard, and the only one contemplated by the constitution, for the public revenue and expenditures, as well as for the value of contracts and property, every departure from it for those purposes is deemed by the undersigned pernicious, if not unconstitutional. The question as to the expediency of using any other medium for a currency, is of a different character, and more complicated. But the ruinous consequences of a resort to continental money, bills of credit, or any species of paper not redeemable in specie, and which had been developed in our own experience, as well as in the soundest theories of political economy, were undoubtedly a principal cause for those rigid provisions in the constitution connected with the currency. They restrict any State from issuing mere "bills of credit," from making any thing a tender "except gold and silver," or passing any law "impairing the obligation of contracts," as well as confine to Congress, alone, the power "to coin money" and "regulate the value thereof." The exercise of this last power, manifestly relating only to metallic money, appears to require merely the coinage of a sufficient supply at the Mint, and in convenient denominations for all necessary purposes, and of such an intrinsic value, as, while preventing it from being depreciated on the one hand, should, on the other, not be so underrated as to cause it to be too readily exported, or melted down for use in manufactures.

The whole amount necessary for public payments has been much misapprehended. Without a surplus in the Treasury, it would seldom exceed eight or ten millions of dollars, even if no evidences of debt, or any kind of paper money, were receivable. Like a running stream, the coin which flows in as constantly flows out, without much accumulation; one dollar helping to perform, in a single year, the service of payment and repayment numerous times. Indeed, the people of the whole United States do not, in a sound state of business and prices, need over one hundred and ten millions of an active circulating medium for all their currency. This would be a larger proportion of currency to our present population than the average has been from the adoption of the constitution; and, if an exclusive metallic currency could be deemed desirable, would require only about thirty millions more than the specie which is supposed now to exist in the country. But the present quantity of specie being divided pretty equally between the banks and individuals, not half of it is in active circulation; and, unless it becomes increased, and much more equally diffused, some paper is, of course, necessary to prevent a sudden revulsion in prices and values, and to supply a sufficient circulating medium for the legitimate purposes of the States and the people. Some paper will probably always be found convenient for commercial operations. It would, therefore, be invidious, if not unauthorized, for the General Government to deprive the States of any supposed advantage in the use of it, so far and so long as they may deem proper, or otherwise to interfere with their course, in relation to it, except to enforce the present constitutional prohibition against issuing any *bills of credit*, or making any thing a tender except *gold and silver*. Care, however, must be employed, incidentally, to avert, as far as

possible, any evil influences which might otherwise be exercised over our own fiscal operations by the different local policies pursued on a subject of so much delicacy, hazard, and difficulty.

The power which Congress may possess to legislate, with a view of furnishing a paper currency of any kind for the ordinary uses of the community, or of regulating, in any way, domestic exchanges, is not entirely clear, nor well defined. Whatever may be its just extent, it seems seldom, if ever, necessary to be used, while the States retain such a wide and undisputed authority over banking; and while the local institutions, as well as private bankers, here no less than abroad, are generally so competent to effect exchanges. Such a power is not expressly conferred in the constitution, nor does it seem to be implied, unless, in the execution of some plain grants, it may become proper to be exerted on any emergency, and without using means otherwise forbidden, unwarrantable, or inexpedient.

In regard to exchanges, it is believed that seldom, if ever, has any Government, however unlimited its authority, considered it wise to prescribe special regulations for effecting them. Such a Government might well feel empowered "to regulate commerce with foreign nations," or between its own States, if it had any; but to regulate exchanges between individuals, would, in most cases, be justly deemed arbitrary. On the contrary, the sound principles of trade seem to require as little interference as possible with fixing the price of commodities, or the mode and medium through which they shall be interchanged. Those principles would only yield adequate protection or security, furnish facilities appropriate and authorized, and establish a good standard of value. Indeed, the balances of indebtedness between different sections of the country, if left to work out their natural consequences on the rate of exchanges, will usually, as they are now doing, correct excesses in business in any quarter, and be self-regulators, far superior to any officious and minute legislation. The rate merely for exchanges can seldom exceed the expense of transporting specie between any two places; and, if surpassing that, the excess must arise from what government has little power to cure—that is, from the difficulty in obtaining money where indebtedness is great, interest high, and credit impaired.

In regard to the currency which is most suitable for public purposes, whatever may be the authority of the General Government to make or adopt a paper one in full or in part, it is difficult to perceive why, after having established specie as a standard, having forbidden any thing else to be made a tender, and having succeeded in encouraging the introduction of a supply of it into the country, very ample for all fiscal purposes, it should expressly dispense with its employment as the most usual medium for those purposes. The fundamental acts of Congress as to the payments for duties and lands have not made any exceptions in its use, or provided any substitutes, except the "evidences of the public debt." Any exceptions allowed ought certainly never to permit any thing, except specie, to be paid out as a rightful tender by the United States; and this principle has been always strictly observed. But by constructions adopted early in this department, and, subsequently, by the charters to the two United States Banks, as well as by an apparent sanction in the joint resolution of 1816, different substitutes of notes issued by those and State banks have, at different times and under different modifications, been permitted to be received in payment. These, however, have been allowed only when regarded as a clear

equivalent to specie, by being readily convertible into it, and by being recommended by some superior convenience or utility, as well as by great security. As specie likewise combines safety, uniformity, general use, sound theory, and almost universal experience in favor of its common employment, the framers of the constitution doubtless believed, as has been the uniform practice since, that all substitutes of paper, as they have less intrinsic value, though they often, by smaller weight or bulk, possess some qualities of greater convenience for certain uses, should never be permitted to be forced on either the Government or the community without their express consent. As they depend also on credit for their worth, it must be bad policy to countenance them for either public or private use, where their credit does not rest on undoubted security, or to encourage such small denominations of them as would be employed by those classes in society whose business is of a kind which cannot be essentially promoted by the substitutes; whose profit is little or nothing derived from them; and whose losses, where depreciations occur, cannot be borne without distress.

Another general objection to every substitute not resting on an equal amount of specie in pledge to redeem it, which was the original idea of a bank of issue, is, that it tends to dispense with the necessity of specie, in connexion with the currency, and thus, by converting more of it into an article of trade, expel it from the country; while a circulating medium is introduced instead of it, which is usually less safe, and often tempts to ruinous expansions in issues as well as business, so as to cause great fluctuations in prices, unsettle the value of property and contracts, and sometimes strip from honest industry, in a moment, the hard earnings of years.

Besides these, a special difficulty, in the use of any other substitute for public purposes, is the procrastination, disappointment, and embarrassment which, in case of its depreciation, are sometimes occasioned by it to great national measures, as well as the discredit thus cast upon the wisdom of the Government, for regulating its fiscal affairs in such a manner as to be unable to discharge punctually its engagements, and for the exhibition of an example so mischievous to both individuals and nations. Another difficulty in this country is the want of equal value, at different places, in any other, when compared with the standard of specie, and the virtual violation which its receipt for duties may thus cause of the spirit of that part of the constitution requiring all imposts to be "uniform." Nor can these two last difficulties be always entirely overcome by the use of such paper, or any other, though redeemed in specie, and on demand, if it be taken at a distance from the place of its redemption. But, in the administration of our fiscal concerns, it has always been very desirable to avoid the want of uniformity, and the delay or expense, and sometimes the loss incident to the receipt for lands or duties of such notes if redeemable at a distance, and which then would sometimes occur before they could be converted into specie, or such money as the public creditor was bound or willing to accept. In order, therefore, to prevent those injurious consequences, one mode has been to accept no State bank notes whatever for public dues, as is now, and sometimes heretofore was, the practice in respect to lands. Another has been, to permit none to be taken except such as, under permission of the Treasury Department, the collecting officers or the public depositories were willing at once to credit as specie.

In our early operations, for purposes of facilitating remittances to the

Treasury, quite as much as for accommodation to others, collectors were instructed to receive certain State bank notes, payable near the seat of Government, and which were to be credited as cash when forwarded by mail, or otherwise, to the Treasurer. (See circular, 1789, H.) The justification offered for this course may be seen in a report from this department in April, 1790, (H 2.) The situation of the country, however, as to ease in communication, facility in exchanges, and the nearer location of many points of collection to those of expenditures, has since undergone such great improvements, as for a long time to have rendered the receipt of notes to aid in public transfers seldom necessary, and almost entirely disused. Another mode adopted by Congress has been, to render the receipts of the notes of State banks, for any purpose less material, by providing those of a bank chartered by the General Government, and making these last, by law, receivable for all public dues. But this mode has ceased; and the legality as well as sound policy of the practice to receive the notes of State banks for any public dues, whether done with a view to fiscal or general convenience, and though under all the strict limitations before mentioned, has been questioned by some. Others have considered any limitation whatever, by either the Executive or this department, as not justifiable since the joint resolution of 1816. It is, therefore, respectfully suggested, that a strong propriety exists for Congress to legislate more explicitly on the whole subject.

It may be proper and useful to add, that, as most of the duties on imposts have been discharged in checks on the bank where the bonds were deposited for collection, or in its own notes, and seldom in those of banks at any distance, little embarrassment has ever arisen concerning the payments for duties in bank notes. But, in taking them for lands, the remote situation of the purchasers, the receivers, and the banks, has generally been such that frequent difficulties and changes in practice have occurred during the period while the United States Bank and its branches, as well as the State banks, were employed as depositories. In our mixed system of a currency, and one so long and so deeply interwoven with the business of the country, it was very inconvenient entirely to avoid, and at the same time occasionally dangerous to permit, taking the bills of any State bank for lands; and the receipt of such notes was obliged to be either so restricted as to prove of little convenience to the community, or a risk was incurred of many partial arrangements being made, and some ultimate injuries sustained by the Treasury.

Under all these circumstances, the course least liable to strong objections appears to be for Congress to prescribe some specific regulations on the whole subject.

This could be effected by directing what alone appears safe, and what is understood to be the practice in both England and France. It is, that the bills of no local banks be taken, which shall not, from the near location of the bank, be equivalent to specie; be able to be converted into specie at very short periods by the receivers and collectors, so as to pay the public creditors legally, if demanding specie; and be thus accounted for at par, and without expense to the Government. Another advantage from this course would be, its salutary check on over-issues by the neighboring banks.

The occasional convenience of a sound paper currency for various purposes, whether national or individual, such as large payments, distant

remittances, exchanges, or travelling, is highly valued by some, and, where gold does not circulate, is often very considerable. But the difficulties in keeping it sound, the hazards and losses incident to its use, and which have already been explained, are troublesome. Should Congress, determine that it is proper to furnish by its own authority, and for the purposes before mentioned, some paper medium, of higher character and other than what now exists, in private bills of exchange or notes of State banks, no doubt exists that any benefits which may occasionally be derived from its employment can be readily secured, without treading on the debatable ground of either the power or the policy of chartering a national bank.

Certificates, not on interest, but payable in specie to bearer or order, as well as being receivable for all public dues, could be authorized to be given in payment to the public creditor, whenever preferred by him, and sufficient specie existed in the Treasury. This kind of paper would be very convenient in form, and would differ little from the drafts now in use on banks, except being drawn on a known specie fund, and expressing on its face not only this, but its being receivable in the first instance for all public dues. It would possess the highest credit attainable in society.

As a practical illustration of their probable utility and convenience, even the drafts, though exposed to several disadvantages which would not exist with the certificates, are near the par of specie, and furnish such facilities for large payments and distant remittances that the amount of them, on both banks and collecting officers, kept out unreturned, has increased within a few months from the usual aggregate of about two millions to nearly four and a half millions.

If the demand for such paper increased, public and private convenience might be promoted, and an equal quantity of specie at the same time preserved in the country, by reserving for this purpose, from any accumulation in the Treasury, a sufficient sum, and by placing it at a few important and convenient points, to render a greater number of certificates redeemable there with the very coin, whose representative they are intended, and honestly ought to be.

All the advantages of these certificates could thus be furnished, by merely paying them out to the public creditor, when more desirable to him than specie. But no loans of them appear advisable, nor any bank incorporation, bank officers, or bank machinery whatever, in connexion with the subject. They would combine the most important requisites appertaining to any paper currency—such as the greatest security, an entire specie basis, and the unity of all issues in one body; while the control over these last, which it is so very desirable to preserve independent, would be placed and regulated by law, so as to prevent any interested or injurious excesses. The whole risk would be the loss by casualty or unfaithfulness of any of the specie that was held to redeem the paper, and which, as well as the expenses, would probably be in part remunerated by the loss of certificates before they are returned. If the residue of the expense should constitute any considerable objection to the system, it could be fully obviated by a moderate and fixed premium for the certificates, either when issued or redeemed.

The common drafts of this department, in their present convenient form, possess another advantage, which would sometimes be imparted to the certificates. When used at places against which the balance of trade exists, but drawn on places in whose favor it is, the former do now, and may

hereafter, not only facilitate essentially the domestic exchanges, but, at the same time, supersede numerous bank transfers, and the more expensive transportation of specie itself.

The Mint certificates, heretofore given on the deposite of bullion and specie, for coinage might easily be made running to bearer or order, and receivable for all public dues; and, in that way, would contribute to the same desirable ends.

The present branches of the Mint, if not numerous enough, nor situated at convenient places for the receipt of specie and bullion for this purpose, might be aided by two or three agencies, instead of more expensive new branches, at points favorable to the interests of the Mint and of the community.

It must be obvious that the paper of any bank will be less safe and useful in being received for public dues, in proportion as it may want such solid securities and foundations as the certificates before described. But if the notes of State banks are made receivable for such dues, under certain limitations like those which have been explained, the other most desirable guaranties for their safety, whether looking to any use of them by the General Government, or to the durable interests of the States themselves, seem to be for the latter, first, to impose on the existing banks, so far as lawful, the checks mentioned in a subsequent part of this communication. They could next authorize very few banks hereafter, except those of mere discount and deposite; and where the power of making paper issues to pass as money is added—a power so sovereign in its character, and so indispensable to be vigilantly guarded, could require a large proportion of specie to the circulation and deposites to be kept on hand, and, in addition, have the faith and security of the State pledged to indemnify the community, as, in the case of the above named certificates, would be pledged those of the General Government. This would greatly increase the caution and watchfulness of all concerned, and could be done by special laws for that purpose, or by allowing no new banks hereafter, except State banks so organized, or by requiring State stocks to be owned by all the banks, and lodged in trust to the extent necessary, with the specie on hand, to secure the immediate redemption of all the bills issued, and all the deposites payable on demand. Another kind of security beyond what now generally exists, would be, never to permit deposites to be received, payable on demand in specie, (a practice so very dangerous to the bill-holders,) except in the case of special deposites kept for a moderate compensation. The only other description of security which is likely to prove in any degree efficient, seems to be of a penal character, either by extending the provisions of a bankrupt law to all banks as before suggested in respect to such as may be fiscal agents, or by allowing all depositors, public or private, and all bill-holders, not only a large interest, but severe prosecutions against the directors after any deliberate omission by banks to discharge their duties in the manner provided in their charters and contracts. The paramount object in all such provisions should, of course, be to guard against abuses, and reform existing evils, though, in some instances, the case may have become so desperate as to require even amputation to save life. Every thing else concerning bank paper is supposed to belong to the wisdom and sound discretion of the several States, as they may prefer, from time to time, to create and employ it. Within the constitutional limitations, and as soon as deemed expedient by any of them, specie alone, or paper,

or a mixed medium of both, as considered preferable by each for its own purposes, can be, if it be not now, established. At the same time, it is hoped and believed that no wish exists in any quarter to prevent, but rather a deep and general anxiety, like that evinced by Congress, the Executive, and this department, for some years past, to encourage the same sound currency for the uses of the people and the States as for the fiscal operations of the General Government.

VIII. SOME GENERAL CAUSES AND REMEDIES OF THE PRESENT EMBARRASSMENTS.

In conclusion, it is the intention of the undersigned not to advert to the chief causes of the recent calamities, except so far as they are connected with our financial condition, and as appears necessary to indicate, briefly, a a few remedies by means of general legislation.

Without doubt, one of those causes was the over-production of cotton, coupled with the large and sudden depreciation in its price.

The whole product, though before so great, had, within three years, been increased probably more than one hundred millions of pounds, so as to exceed in a single year the enormous quantity of five hundred and forty millions of pounds. The fall of price was such, as on that quantity would make a difference in its value of near forty millions of dollars. The occurrence of this fall, however, was at such a period of the year as not much to affect over half the last crop; but the violence of the shock, though thus lessened, still occasioned a loss to an appalling amount. The fall was chiefly consequent from the over-production, and the abrupt withdrawal of foreign credit, combined with some other circumstances which need not now be particularized. The over-production originated partly, like most other excesses here, from an extraordinary extension of credits and of bank issues, and partly from keeping open the sales of public lands to all persons, and at the former low prices, after other articles, including cotton and lands, had suddenly risen much in their nominal value. Under this tempting state of things, those sales were exorbitantly enlarged, till they amounted to over twenty millions of acres in a year, when not more than three or four millions were probably necessary; and not so much had before been requisite, annually, to meet the natural demands for new public lands for raising cotton, and for all other kinds of agricultural employment. But this excess in sales, so unexpected and ruinous, can, it is believed, be averted hereafter, whenever they are likely to go beyond a desirable amount, by passing laws which shall confine them to actual settlers, or increase the price to others. The same measures, with other remedies hereafter suggested for some other existing evils, will help to correct future excesses in the production of the great domestic staple of the Union.

Another of the causes of the present embarrassments was the unprecedented quantity of foreign goods imported. By stimulants to over-trading, such as very extended and often renewed credits abroad, as well as at home, so treacherous in appearances of prosperity, those importations were dangerously swollen to the amount of almost two hundred millions of dollars a year, and thus constituted an excess over our exports of about sixty millions, and involved the country in a foreign debt, merely commercial, whose balance against us, after all proper deductions for freights, profits, and similar considerations, probably exceeded the aggregate of thirty millions of dollars.

That excess, so little anticipated and so indiscreet, the system of credit formerly in use, and better regulated, would have seasonably prevented, by requiring an early adjustment of balances, and, thus turning the foreign exchanges against us, would have stopped many extravagances both in trade and bank issues.

But, stimulated and unrestrained, as before described, it increased the duties some millions beyond what a prudent though prosperous state of trade was likely to produce, and, combined with some other causes, has overwhelmed the mercantile interest with many of those disasters under which it has suffered so severely the past season. From many of these, no just legislation can now afford much relief. Nor could any legislation heretofore have prevented severe revulsions from this source, except by imposing checks on inordinate credit and banking, as well as on sudden and large expansions and contractions in bank issues, and by that further reduction of the tariff, which has been so strenuously urged for two years past to be adopted, whenever our fiscal condition evinced that the whole of the accruing duties were not needed for public purposes. Because the great surplus, forced into the Treasury by the excesses in the sales of land, and in duties on imports, not being seasonably withdrawn, either by equivalent appropriations or further reductions in the current receipts through new laws or by investments, has undoubtedly contributed, through the loan of it while in deposite, to sustain, in some degree, if not produce, the spirit of overtrading. That surplus was often deprecated; and the only sound legal preventives still appear to this department to be, the measures before enumerated for preventing its accumulation. And after it had undesignedly happened, the wisest disposal of it was supposed to be, to expend it, as fast as useful, on proper objects of a public character; and, in the mean time, not to leave it in the deposite banks, but to invest it in State stocks, as a provident fund, to remain both safely and profitably till wanted to aid in meeting current expenditures or extraordinary contingencies.

The undersigned regrets that he was not so fortunate in sustaining his opinions concerning the transient and fluctuating character of the excesses in our revenue, as to have received the concurrence of Congress in relation to those cautionary provisions formerly recommended by him for meeting the revulsions, deficiencies, and contingencies which he supposed incident to them, as well as to our financial system generally. He is, at the same time, aware that the deposite act, so far as it placed a part of the public money with the States for safe keeping, and the Treasury circular issued by the direction of the Executive, as to the kind of money receivable for public lands, were intended, among other things, to obviate a portion of the evils connected with those excesses. Nor does he entertain any doubt that they both contributed, at first, to awaken caution among the more considerate, and to excite strong suspicions, if not convictions, in prudent minds, as to the great extravagancies of credit into which the community had rashly plunged. But after those measures had accomplished these and similar benefits with a portion of the community, though others still felt justified in anticipating a continuance of surpluses and distributions, the subsequent influence of either the act, or the circular, in checking the threatened mischiefs, is believed, in most cases, to have been overrated. The operations of the deposite act, in supplying deficiencies of revenue, by a recall from the States, however well intended, will probably prove very deficient. In some other respects they have, by first requiring to be speedily collected and subdivided

among more numerous banks from ten to fifteen millions of dollars, and then compelling, within the short period of nine months from the 1st of January last, another collection and transfer of nearly forty millions more, and much of it from the merchants, and to places not situated in the usual channels of trade or of large fiscal operations, unquestionably aggravated many of the distresses which had their principal origin in other causes. Those operations necessarily aided to produce the derangement that occurred in the domestic exchanges, and imposed a task on the banks, unprecedented for its amount and difficulty. By converting suddenly into demands for specie very large sums, most of which were before mere credits, they also hastened, if not increased, the loss of confidence in banks that has since so widely impaired their character and usefulness.

Another, and the last general cause of the present embarrassments which will be noticed, as having much connexion with our financial affairs, has been an unnecessary and injudicious increase of bank capital, discounts, and issues. A similar increase, however this may have been influenced by the large temporary deposites of public money made with banks and States, and by the causes before alluded to, has happened in some foreign countries, as well as here, during the same period, from other great commercial and monetary impulses, that are permanently connected with all paper systems not founded entirely upon specie. These impulses have operated in some measure independently of several transient and local causes, whose effects have, by many, been much exaggerated. It is probable that they never can be properly controlled under such a system of expansive credit, while the individual directors of much of that credit have so little separate legislative restraint placed over their conduct, and have private interests at stake, which, in the pursuit of immediate and large profits, must usually possess a strength so superior to that of any sense of general duty to consult the public security.

The amount of circulation, which existed in the early part of the last year, had increased $30,000,000 or $40,000,000 in only three years. It continued to expand for some months afterwards, and in the last annual report was considered likely to prove ruinous to steady prices; to surround with danger every species of sound trade; and not to be susceptible of that reduction to proper dimensions, which was necessary, and soon inevitable, without probably producing some of the wide-spread sufferings which have since happened. The constitutional power of the General Government to check such evils, except as before indicated, and except incidentally, through the kind of money it can and should permit to be employed in its revenues and expenditures, is apprehended to be limited. Through the latter, it may usefully discourage, as of late years has been attempted by Congress as well as the Executive, the dangerous issues of small bills, and, indeed, paper emissions of any kind, which are not "paid on demand in gold or silver coin at the place where issued, and shall not be equivalent to specie at the place where offered, and convertible into gold or silver upon the spot, at the will of the holder, and without delay or loss to him." For the like purpose, it may likewise continue inflexibly to countenance for smaller payments, and in the business of society not particularly commercial, a metallic currency; which is not liable like bank paper to sudden fluctuations and great losses. A further wise step would doubtless be, to refrain to make, by its own acts, any addition to the amount of bank capital, already too great; and to rely on bank paper as little as practicable, when authorized in the improvident manner which has often prevailed, and exhibited

so much feebleness and insecurity, as well as produced so many inconveniences and losses.

It appears to the undersigned that, all beyond this, which can be beneficially accomplished, in connexion with the last cause of the present embarrassments, and without an alteration in the constitution conferring on the General Government direct authority over every kind of banking, must be effected through the State Legislatures, and the commercial habits of the community. Much improvement can, doubtless, be introduced, if the Legislatures will impose those additional regulations, restraints, and securities, which have been before enumerated. Much more will also follow, and substantial relief be afforded to the people at large, if, in addition to the other measures recommended, individuals will exercise the wisdom to place a greater reliance on real capital, active industry, frugality, and well-grounded credit, than on that inflated system which of late has cotemporaneously prevailed to such a ruinous extent, both in this and some other countries.—A system, which has been encouraged by some persons, under the delusive idea that there was no overtrading of any kind, till a revulsion has occurred almost without a parallel, and has given to commerce and credit a blow, whose destructive effects it may require years fully to repair.

All which is respectfully submitted.

LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury

To the Hon. R. M. JOHNSON,
President of the Senate.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Annexed to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

A. Letter to the collector at New York, by the Secretary of the Treasury, concerning the postponement of bonds for duties.
B. Instructions from the Solicitor of the Treasury, on the same subject.
C. Memorial from merchants of New York to the President.
D. Memorial from chamber of commerce of Boston to the Secretary of the Treasury.
E. Memorial from the chamber of commerce of New Orleans.
F 1. Reply from Secretary of the Treasury to the chamber of commerce of Boston.
F 2. Letter to collector of New York as to receipt of bank notes.
F 3. Letter from committee of chamber of commerce of New York, requesting extension of a year on payments of duties.
G. Letter accompanying the transfer drafts to the States, with the postscript as to the return of the transfers in case of non-payment by the banks.
H 1. Circular letter from Treasury Department as to the receipt and transmission, by mail, of bank notes in 1789.
H 2. Extract from report of April 22, 1790, upon the collection law.
I. First circular to the deposite banks, discontinuing those which had ceased to pay specie for their notes.
K. List of those thus discontinued.
L. List of present deposite banks under the deposite act.
M 1. First circular to collectors, directing them not to place money in general deposite in banks which have stopped specie payment.
M 2. Circular to receivers of public money on the same subject.
N. Second circular directing them to deposite specially, when they have on hand above a certain amount.
O. Extract from Treasury report in 1790, as to a new class of officers to keep and transfer the public money.
P. Table of Treasury warrants payable in each State in 1834.
Q. Comparative condition of deposite banks in certain particulars in November, 1836, and in March, May, July, and August, 1837.
R. State of the accounts of the former and present deposite banks with the Treasurer of the United States.
S. Circular as to deposites by disbursing officers, by order of the President.
T. Circular instructions to collectors and receivers, to accept Treasury drafts in certain cases.
U. Condition of each of the former and present deposite banks by their last returns.
V. Last circular to banks, on the subject of resuming specie payments.

A.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
May 8, 1837.

SIR: I have been directed by the President of the United States to communicate to you the views of this department in relation to the request recently made to him by a committee appointed at a respectable meeting held in the city of New York. The request was, that "instructions may be given to prevent the commencing of suits in any of the collection districts upon unpaid bonds, until after the 1st day of January next."

With every disposition on the part of the President and this department to gratify any wishes of the mercantile portion of the community, and with a deep solicitude to alleviate, as far as possible, the pressure which exists in their pecuniary affairs, it is to be regretted that instructions cannot be given for so protracted a delay, and in so general a manner, without a departure from long established usage, and great inconvenience to both the merchants and the Treasury.

By the act of Congress of the 2d March, 1799, it is provided that "where any bond for the payment of duties shall not be satisfied on the day it may become due, the collector shall forthwith, and without delay, cause a prosecution to be commenced for the recovery of the money thereon, by action or suit at law."

No authority or discretionary power is intrusted expressly to the President or this department to dispense with this imperative direction, given by Congress to the collectors of the customs. The general practice has been opposed to the existence or exercise of any legal authority, except in Congress, to grant delay in the payment of such bonds, until after an action is instituted or judgment is confessed. After a suit has been brought, the collector's duty has been considered as fulfilled; and this department, through its proper agents, has in such cases, and in that stage of the proceedings, deemed it lawful to direct some delay to be granted by the district attorney on certain terms.

No statute forbids such a course, and if a payment in part is then made, or additional security furnished in cases where great hardship, embarrassment, or insolvency is shown to exist, and the application is made in consequence of some of those circumstances, indulgence has frequently been given.

But the power of permitting some indulgence before an action is commenced is supposed by the Attorney General and the Solicitor of the Treasury to belong to the latter officer, under the act of Congress of 29th May, 1830; and in times and cases like the present, when the most favorable construction which is legal should be followed, this department is disposed, in conformity with the advice and opinion of these law officers, to sanction a delay by him under like circumstances, and to a like extent, before suit as afterwards. Upon the occurrence, therefore, of cases of the character previously described, whether before suit or after, and whether at your port or elsewhere, similar indulgences on similar terms could, and undoubtedly would, be allowed with pleasure, on seasonable application in each case, and the extent of the delay being regulated by the facts of each case, and the existing and probable wants of the Treasury at the time it shall be presented.

But should applications of this kind become numerous, and extend to several bonds very large in amount, difficulties, unfortunately, would arise, under the existing laws and present state of the Treasury, not only to the parties, but to the public, in postponing payment for any considerable period. In the first place, all parties and sureties upon bonds unpaid after due are expressly disabled by the 62d section of the act before referred to from having credit upon any other duty bonds. The language is, "No person whose bond has been received, either as principal or surety, for the payment of duties, or for whom any bond has been given by an agent, factor, or other person, in pursuance of the provisions herein contained, and which bond may be due and unsatisfied, shall be allowed a future credit for duties until such bond be fully paid or discharged." In the next place, the condition of the Treasury during the remainder of the year will probably be such, whether looking to the estimates submitted by this department to Congress at the commencement of its session in December last, or to the actual state of things at this time, as to create serious inconvenience and embarrassment to the public interests in meeting the public engagements, should the payment of all the duty bonds outstanding in the United States, and amounting to several millions of dollars, be postponed in their collection, either before or after suit, until the time requested by the committee.

This will be very manifest from the following data: The aggregate receipts into the Treasury during the year 1837 having been estimated in the last annual report at $24,000,000, and the appropriations asked for by the respective departments, with the usual anticipated contingent, having amounted to about $27,000,000, it was then suggested that this would require the expenditure not only of all the estimated accruing receipts, but near three millions of the five reserved on the 1st of January, 1837, for distribution among the States. Congress, however, in the course of the session, appropriated not only those three millions of excess, but over five millions in addition; making an aggregate of more than thirty-two millions: and by this means a charge was imposed on the Treasury to the extent of eight or nine millions beyond the estimated receipts during the year.

The expectation of a recurrence of an extraordinary excess of revenue during the present year, which may have been contemplated by some, and have formed the ground on which so large appropriations were made, was never entertained by this department; nor does any such expectation, judging from the receipts of the first quarter, and the first month of the second quarter of the present year, seem likely to be verified. On the contrary, assuming the hypothesis that a similar amount of unexpended appropriations will remain at the close of the present year as did at the close of the last, (though in ordinary times they are generally reduced eight millions lower, and, should they become so, would increase the deficiency to that extent,) the postponement of the payment of any considerable amount of bonds to the 1st of January next would make a deficiency in the means of the Treasury highly probable. To postpone the payment of the many millions falling due at all the ports in the United States, would render this deficiency inevitable.

Comparing the present condition of the country with a former period of similar revulsion in trade, when, in 1819, from causes somewhat analogous, the mercantile interests were exposed to a pressure so very general and severe, the likelihood seems equally strong in favor of a rapid reduction in the revenue.

The foregoing remarks will explain some of the practical difficulties to be encountered in meeting the wishes expressed by the committee for the long postponement of the payment of duty bonds, whether granted before or after suit, and whether in view of the consequences to the merchants or to the Treasury and the public. But indulgence for thirty, sixty, and ninety days, not extending beyond the 1st of September, or about the time for arranging the payment of the last instalment of deposite with the States, could doubtless be granted in special cases, under the customary terms and circumstances as before explained, should any parties desire it. But what forbearance the situation of the Treasury may justify in this respect, at any future day, cannot now be foreseen with much accuracy. The payment, within so short a period as nine months, of such a vast amount to the States as near thirty-eight millions, and which is mostly to be collected through the deposite banks from the mercantile portion of the country, increases the pressure from other causes on both the banks and the community, and creates a prospect that the revenue accruing for the rest of the year will much decline, and will generally be, as has been the case in April, less than the current expenditures.

Hence the amount in the Treasury at this time being only about six millions more than is required to be paid to the States, the progress of events may compel a recourse to such other measures as the existing laws authorize for meeting one of those great crises or fluctuations in trade, by which, as well as by other contingencies, our present sources of revenue, from their intimate dependance upon them, are so suddenly and so largely influenced, and for which it has been the anxious wish of this department for two years past that Congress would effectually provide.

How far the powers of the department, under the deposite and other acts, are now adequate to this end, need not be considered until a necessity to resort to them shall become imperative. But, at all events, it is manifest that the present, as well as probably the future condition of the Treasury, must be so doubtful, if not straitened, as to prevent it from affording so much incidental or direct aid to the mercantile interest, either individually or through the deposite banks, as it would be highly gratifying to this department to be able to extend. More especially would it be gratified to do this, while their interests are suffering under the present severe pressure—a pressure regretted by me as deeply as by any one, and the near and probable approach, as well as principal causes of which, according to my views of the subject, I felt compelled, from a sense of public duty, however disagreeable the task, to point out in detail in the last annual report, so fully as to render a repetition of them on this occasion unnecessary as well as painful.

This department cannot close the present communication without requesting you to assure the individuals connected with the great commerce of your port of the deep sympathy felt here on account of its embarrassments; of the willingness cherished at this time, as on former occasions, to extend to it every species of relief and indulgence in the power of the Treasury, consistent with the laws and the public duties intrusted to its charge; and of the entire conviction entertained, that the high moral character and honorable feelings of the merchants will not only carry them through the trials of adverse fortune with their usual scrupulous respect for the laws and the constituted authorities of their country, but, by the aid of their accustomed energy, enterprise, and indefatigable industry, will ere long re-

lieve them from most of the sufferings occasioned by those disasters which have occurred so unexpectedly to some and so injuriously to many.

Respectfully, yours, &c.

LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

SAMUEL SWARTWOUT, Esq.,
Collector of New York.

P. S. You are requested to give immediate publicity to the above communication.

B.

[CIRCULAR.]

From the Solicitor of the Treasury to the United States attorneys.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR OF THE TREASURY,
May 15, 1837.

SIR: You will perceive by the letter of the Secretary of the Treasury to the collector of the port of New York, under date of the 8th instant, that the Treasury Department, desiring, in concurrence with the views of the President, to give all the relief to the mercantile community, under its present state of general embarrassment, which is authorized by law, and permitted by official obligation, has determined, in certain cases, to suspend for a short time the collection of duty bonds.

The 5th section of the act of May 29, 1830, entitled "An act to provide for the appointment of a Solicitor of the Treasury," gives power to that officer "to instruct district attorneys in all matters and proceedings appertaining to suits in which the United States is a party or interested." This power has often, on application to this office, in cases of great hardship, embarrassment, or insolvency, been exercised, to give time for payment, *after the institution of suit*, on condition of further security being furnished to the satisfaction of the district attorney. A temporary indulgence on this, or other conditions, has frequently made ultimate payment secure, when a rigorous enforcement of the law would have resulted in the ruin of the debtor and loss of the debt. But indulgence has never heretofore, (except on occasion of the great fire in New York, when Congress was in session, and had the subject of relief under consideration,) been extended *before suit commenced;* but, under the opinion of this office, with the sanction of the Attorney General, the collector of New York has been informed by the Secretary of the Treasury that the power exists to grant delay *before suit*, and will now be extended in appropriate cases.

The present general embarrassment of the money concerns of the commercial cities has also been deemed by the President and Secretary of the Treasury a suitable occasion for an extraordinary exercise of the power of instruction to district attorneys, vested in this office by the act of Congress above mentioned, by giving it beforehand, and leaving to them its special application on the general terms and principles laid down by this office. I have, therefore, as the applications for relief will probably be numerous, thought proper to point out for your government the terms and conditions on which, in the exercise of a sound discretion, after obtaining in each case all the information in your power, you may postpone the institution of suit.

1st. You will require that the assent of sureties, in writing, to the indulgence desired, be filed in your office.

2dly. The 65th section of the general collection law of March 2, 1799, entitled "An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage," provides that "on all bonds, upon which suits shall be commenced, an interest shall be allowed, at the rate of six per cent. per annum, from the time when said bonds become due until the payment thereof." You will require, therefore, the agreement of all the parties to bonds on which suits shall be postponed, to pay the same interest as if suit were instituted.

3dly. You will in no case, without further orders, grant a suspension of suit beyond the 1st day of October next; before which period Congress will have an opportunity of making such provisions as they may think proper.

4thly. You will, in all cases, request additional security. If this cannot be given, you will require a judgment by confession, as a condition of such stay of execution, as you may deem expedient and proper, not to extend beyond the time above allowed for the suspension of suit.

5thly. It must be a condition, in all cases, that a forfeiture of all the benefits of the indulgence granted shall be incurred, whenever any one of the terms of that indulgence shall not have been complied with.

It is not intended by the third regulation that the postponement of suit should, in all cases, be made until the 1st October next. On the contrary, you will take care that, in the exercise of the discretion respecting postponement of payment and suit, conferred on you by this letter, that no indulgence be granted, where the parties, in your judgment, are able to pay without serious sacrifices. It is, moreover, highly desirable, where the parties have it in their power to make it, to obtain payment in part, and to stipulate for the residue in instalments of thirty, sixty, or ninety days; or, if no part can be obtained in cash, then the whole amount to be paid in instalments of thirty, sixty, and ninety days. More especially should this be required where no additional security is given.

It is desirable, for the convenience of parties applying for indulgence, that they should, in proper cases, obtain it without the delay, trouble, and expense of applying to this office. It is, moreover, obvious that the Solicitor of the Treasury, acting through the district attorneys, who reside in the same place with the applicants, and have a personal acquaintance with them, and a knowledge of their character and circumstances, may exercise the power for their relief, incident to his office, more judiciously than in person at Washington. The requisite authority, and the general regulations for its exercise, are, therefore, given you by this letter of instructions. But, although it is highly desirable and expedient that cases of relief should be acted on and decided at once in the places where they originate; yet, important cases, not coming within those regulations, or the circumstances of which, from their peculiarity, shall, in your judgment, require it, may be referred to this office, with a detailed report of all the facts and information affecting them, possessed by you, or which you can collect.

You will, as heretofore, make your regular report of bonds, transmitted to you by the collector of the customs for suit, as prescribed in the first regulation for the observance of district attorneys, in my circular of the 27th July, 1830; and under the head of "remarks," if a suspension of suit be granted, you will state the circumstances and conditions of the suspension, and the nature and amount of the security given, the evidences of which you will retain in your possession.

In case of application for indulgence being made before the bonds become due, you may make use of the same forms of return as in case of suit, leaving such heads *blank* as are not applicable, and making the report immediately after the suspension of suit is granted. Should any of the conditions on which indulgence has been granted not be fulfilled, you will immediately, without further instructions, institute such legal proceedings as the case may call for, and make report thereof to this office.

I am, very respectfully, sir,
Your most obedient servant,
V. MAXCY,
Solicitor of the Treasury.

To ———, Esq.
United States attorney for the district of——.

C.

To MARTIN VAN BUREN,
President of the United States:

SIR: We have the honor of informing you that a very numerous meeting of the merchants of New York was held on the 25th of April, for the purpose of considering the present distressed condition of the city, and deliberating upon the means of relief. It was called by more than three hundred firms, and was attended by a large proportion of those merchants who are connected with the internal trade of the country, and who have an especial and direct interest in the state of domestic exchanges.

A committee was appointed to repair to Washington, and remonstrate with the Executive against the continuance of the specie circular, and to urge its immediate repeal; also, to ask that instructions may be given to prevent the commencing of suits, in any of the collection districts, upon unpaid bonds, until after the 1st day of January next, and to urge upon the Executive the propriety of calling an extra session of Congress at as early a day as possible.

In obedience, sir, to these instructions, we present ourselves before you, and ask your deep and solemn attention to the unhappy condition of that city which has hitherto been the promoter and the index of our national prosperity, and whose fall will include the ruin of thousands in every region of our territory. We do not tell a fictitious tale of wo, we have no selfish or partisan views to sustain, when we assure you that the noble city which we represent lies prostrate in despair, its credit blighted, its industry paralyzed, and without a hope beaming through the darkness of the future, unless the Government of our country can be induced to relinquish the measures to which we attribute our distress. We fully appreciate the respect which is due to our Chief Magistrate, and disclaim every intention inconsistent with that feeling; but we speak in behalf of a community which trembles upon the brink of ruin, which deems itself an adequate judge of all questions connected with the trade and currency of the country, and believes that the policy adopted by the recent administration, and sustained by the present, is founded in error, and threatens the destruction of every department of industry.

Our merchants, manufacturers, and mechanics have repeatedly predicted the fatal issue of that policy. "What was prophecy, has now become history;" and the reality far exceeds our most gloomy anticipations. Under a deep impression of the propriety of confining our declarations within moderate limits, we affirm that the value of our real estate has, within the last six months, depreciated more than forty millions; that, within the last two months, there have been more than two hundred and fifty failures of houses engaged in extensive business; that, within the same period, a decline of twenty millions of dollars has occurred in our local stocks, including those rail-road and canal incorporations which, though chartered in other States, depend upon New York for the sale; that the immense amount of merchandise in our warehouses has, within the same period, fallen in value at least thirty per cent.; that, within a few weeks, not less than twenty thousand individuals, depending upon their daily labor for their daily bread, have been discharged by their employers, because the means of retaining them were exhausted; and that a complete blight has fallen upon a community heretofore so active, enterprising, and prosperous. The error of our rulers has produced a wider desolation than the pestilence which depopulated our streets, or the conflagration which laid them in ashes.

We believe that it is unjust to attribute these evils to any excessive development of mercantile enterprise, and that they really flow from that unwise system which aimed at the substitution of a metallic for a paper currency—the system which gave the first shock to the fabric of our commercial prosperity, by removing the public deposites from the United States Bank, which weakened every part of the edifice by the destruction of that useful and efficient institution, and now threatens to crumble it into a mass of ruins, under the operations of the specie circular, which withdrew the gold and silver of the country from the channels in which it could be profitably employed. We assert that the experiment has had a fair, a liberal trial, and that disappointment and mischief are visible in all its results; that the promise of a regulated currency and equalized exchanges has been broken, the currency totally disordered, and internal exchanges almost entirely discontinued. We therefore make our earnest appeal to the Executive, and ask whether it is not time to interpose the paternal authority of the Government, and abandon the policy which is beggaring the people.

Amid all the distress of our condition, we have been gratified by a view of the generous and forbearing spirit which has almost invariably marked the conduct of the creditor towards the debtor. A general disposition has been manifested to indulge the debtor with ample time for the arrangement of his business and collection of his debts; and we would respectfully suggest the example for the imitation of the Government. The embarrassment and distress of the merchants would be more readily relieved by the suspending of suits upon unpaid bonds until a future day, when the wisdom of Congress may grant some measure of relief.

Feeling, as we do, that we have reached a crisis which requires the exercise of all the wisdom and energy of the country to heal the wounds which have been inflicted upon its commerce and productive industry, we would respectfully and earnestly urge upon the Executive the propriety of calling an extra session of Congress, to deliberate upon the unprecedented and alarming embarrassments in which we are involved. The members, coming directly from their constituents, will have had the opportunity of knowing and appreciating the extent of the distress which exists; and we are convinced

that their collected opinions will fully sustain those which we have expressed, and their testimony indicate an amount of suffering of which we cannot believe that you, sir, have heretofore been aware.

We persuade ourselves that the representations which we have given of the actual condition of our affairs will induce you to doubt the expediency of the policy which has been recently pursued; and we trust to your intelligence for such a change of measures as will revive the hopes and stimulate the energies of the merchants of New York.

ISAAC S. HONE,
JAMES W. BRYAN,
BENJAMIN LODER,
ALEX. B. McALPIN,
JOHN A. UNDERWOOD,
THOMAS TILESTON,
MEIGS D. BENJAMIN,
ELISHA LEWIS,
SIMEON DRAPER, Jr.

WASHINGTON, *May* 3, 1837.

D.

The subscribers, under the direction of a meeting of the Boston chamber of commerce, respectfully represent to the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury that much difficulty will arise here from the requisition, which they understand has been made, that all dues to the Treasury shall be paid in specie.

The suspension of specie payment is now universal in this city, and it is impossible to procure the amount necessary for the payment of custom-house bonds. If the requisition be made, there is no course left to the merchants but to submit to a suit, and its unpleasant consequences.

It is evident that specie for the large amounts daily falling due on custom-house bonds, throughout the country, cannot be procured on any terms. The refusal of specie for bonds is not, therefore, in the least, a matter of choice; the payment is utterly impossible.

If, then, no alteration be made in present instructions, the suits now just commencing will eventually extend to the commercial community throughout the country; incapacitating them from further entries or importations, and seriously embarrassing the financial operations of the Government. If this be so, it is merely a matter of time, with regard to the required alterations; sooner or later, they will become indispensable; if made now, much distress will be prevented.

Even were it otherwise, there are, it appears to the chamber, sufficient reasons why specie payments should not now be required by the Government. It is matter of notoriety that specie payment of the indemnity lately received by the Government has been refused to the claimants by the agents of Government; and further, that specie payment of debenture certificates is now refused at the custom-house, at the very moment when specie payment is demanded for bonds. The extreme hardship and injustice of the demand and the refusal, at the same moment, cannot require comment.

Under these circumstances, they cheerfully request such a modification of he requisitions of the Government as may consist with justice and the

ability of the community. To this purpose, a withdrawal of the specie instructions recently issued to the collector of this port, leaving him and the merchants to devise, in good faith, the means of adjusting the claims of the Government with the mercantile community, would, perhaps, be entirely sufficient. A course like this has been adopted on a former occasion, and seems to be the only one now practicable.

WM. STURGIS,
President Boston Chamber of Commerce.

THOS. W. WALES, ROB'T G. SHAW. } *Vice Presidents.*
G. M. THATCHER, *Secretary.*

E.

NEW ORLEANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
New Orleans, May 25, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you, enclosed, a copy of the proceedings of the chamber of commerce of New Orleans, in relation to the deranged condition of the currency, and the impracticability resulting therefrom to conform strictly with the requisitions of the law and orders emanating from your department.

I beg leave most respectfully to call your attention to said proceedings, with the hope that some measures may be devised to obviate existing difficulties.

I have the honor to be, sir,
With great consideration and respect,
Your obedient servant,
SAM. J. PETERS,
President.

To the Hon. the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
Of the United States, Washington City.

NEW ORLEANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Saturday, May 20, 1837.

At a special meeting of the chamber held this day, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted, with only one dissenting voice:

Whereas, the collector of the custom-house of this district, in virtue of instructions from Washington, requires specie, or notes of specie-paying banks which are at par, in payment of all duty bonds: and whereas, it is well known that nearly all the banks of this city, including the deposite banks, have lately suspended specie payments; and that the notes of the few banks which have continued to redeem their circulation in specie are not re-issued, and therefore cannot be obtained, whilst the same banks refuse to pay their deposites in specie:

In consequence of which, it is impossible that the requisition of the collector can be complied with. Therefore, be it resolved—

1st. That, in the opinion of this chamber, the existing revenue laws, which it is now attempted strictly to enforce, were passed by Congress un-

der circumstances very essentially differing from those which at present prevail; and that a revision of the same by Congress has become indispensable.

2d. That, in the opinion of this chamber, it is highly expedient that Congress should be called at as early a period as may be practicable, with a view to take into consideration the currency of the country, and the revision of the revenue laws, so as to reconcile them with the present state of things, and to render them susceptible of being executed.

3d. That the payment of duty bonds in gold and silver, under existing circumstances, is utterly impracticable; and if the collector cannot receive in payment thereof the notes of our local banks, said bonds must necessarily remain unpaid until the action of Congress with regard to the same be ascertained.

4th. That any attempt on the part of Government to enforce the collection of custom-house bonds in gold and silver, will be attended with serious suffering and distress: inasmuch as the sale of property by the marshal of the United States cannot be effected, for specie, without the most cruel and unnecessary sacrifices.

5th. That if the Government persists in the collection of duty bonds in gold and silver, when the same is not to be procured; and in the event of its finding attorneys and jurors willing to assist in rigorous prosecutions, it is the opinion of this chamber that these measures may gradually lead the country into scenes of disorder, violence, and resistance to the laws, which are seriously to be deprecated, and which the Government ought to avoid.

6th. That the president of this chamber be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Treasury.

[SEAL.] A true copy from the minutes: as witness my hand and seal of the chamber, this 24th day of May, 1837.

GEO. W. WHITE, *Secretary.*

F 1.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
May 21, 1837.

GENTLEMEN: Your communication, in behalf of the chamber of commerce in Boston, concerning the payment of duties, was received at this department to-day. Though without date, it is presumed to have been written before the receipt in your city of the proclamation of the President calling a special and early session of Congress, and of the circulars, letters, and notices of this department, recently published, concerning custom-house bonds. Copies of these are, therefore, annexed, (numbered 1 to 7,) and to which I beg leave to refer for several explanations on some of the topics contained in your memorial.

In addition to those explanations, but a few other remarks are supposed to be necessary to put the chamber of commerce in full possession of the views of the undersigned, in respect to your request, and, it is hoped, to satisfy you that every thing has been done, and will continue to be done here, for relief to the merchants in the present distressing emergency, which the laws sanction and my limited authority permits.

One of the earliest acts passed by the first Congress convened under the present constitution of the United States, was that of July 31st, 1789, expressly requiring all duties to be "received in gold and silver only," and which provision has been virtually continued in subsequent laws. The circular of this department, from whose operation you ask to be exempted, is only a repetition or an affirmance of that act, except it contains a mitigation, justified by a long and liberal construction, which authorizes an equivalent for specie to be also received.

Under that construction, anxious as the department has been, and still is, to extend every indulgence to those connected with it, which is not inconsistent with law and public duty, it sanctioned the receipt of the notes of specie-paying banks instead of specie for customs, and all the drafts or checks of the Treasury, not paid to the satisfaction of the holders, by the banks on which they are drawn. Debenture bonds are likewise receivable in payment of duties; and, whenever doubt has arisen on that point, express instructions have been given to take them.

Beyond these alleviations, the department has yet been unable to discover any legal authority which it possesses, or is able to delegate to others, to receive substitutes for the specie, which is imperatively required by law in payment of duties. On the contrary, by a reference to the various acts of Congress bearing on this subject, it will be manifest that if the department, under the influence of sympathy, rather than of official obligations, should allow any thing not equivalent to specie to be received for duties, it would violate the letter of the original law on this subject, and the invariable practice under it, with one brief and occasional exception, which existed only in certain sections of the country, about twenty years since, and commenced during invasion and war. It would also act in conflict with both the letter and spirit of the joint resolution of Congress, afterwards passed in April, 1815, for the avowed purpose of preventing any longer or future deviation from the act of 1789.

If, in a period of profound peace, and in many respects of great prosperity, the President and the undersigned, as mere executive officers, jealously restricted by the constitution and by statutes, should proceed to dispense with these laws, without previous permission from Congress, it might certainly be considered one of those unwarranted usurpations of power, so boldly and cogently denounced by our forefathers; and, without doubt, we should next, and on similar grounds, be requested to extend a like indulgence to all debtors of the Government, whether individuals or banks, and to all the purchasers of the public lands, though these last are likewise required by statute to be paid for in "specie, or in evidences of the public debt of the United States." Any such disregard of those imperative requisitions would lead to other consequences almost equally alarming and deplorable, as it would amount to the receipt for duties of what was less valuable to the community and to the Government than what the acts of Congress expressly direct.

In this way, without legal authority, the interests of the United States would further be injuriously relinquished and compromised, by virtually allowing a diminution of the whole tariff of duties, and all the incidental benefits anticipated from it, to any of the great branches of industy in the country, quite to the extent of the difference in value between specie and the notes of the banks not paying specie. The many millions of unavailable paper, which would probably be thus placed in the Treasury for duties and other debts, it would be difficult to compute; as, besides the twenty-six

or seven millions now due from individuals and banks, most, if not all of the future revenue accruing from customs, or the increased sales of public land in consequence of such a system, would be paid to the United States in notes of the same depreciated character. It deserves consideration, likewise, what could legally be done with such funds when collected; as, by the second section of the act of April 14th, 1836, the Treasury is expressly forbidden to offer, in payment of any claim whatever against the United States, "any bank note of any denomination, unless the same shall be payable, and paid on demand, in gold or silver coin, at the place where issued, and which shall not be equivalent to specie at the place where offered, and convertible into gold or silver upon the spot, at the will of the holder, and without delay or loss to him."

How great would be the loss on such irredeemable funds, and who ought to bear it when they are received contrary to law, and how destructive such measures would prove to the preservation of a sound constitutional currency, by indirectly sanctioning, as they would, the disuse of specie for it here, and the consequent export of it in large quantities to foreign countries, as an article of trade, need not be dwelt on at this time. It is moreover manifest, that all such collections would further disable the Treasury from paying immediately, in the manner it is bound by law and good faith to do, the various public creditors; some of whom are stated, as a matter of complaint, in your memorial, not to be able now to obtain specie for their claims. But if the indemnity certificates and debentures to which you refer have not all been paid in specie or its equivalent to the merchants or other holders, you may rest assured that the failure to do it has not arisen from any direction to that effect by the Treasury; but, on the contrary, that express orders have been given to meet both with specie when demanded; and, if not done, the failure has occurred, and will continue, only in consequence of the regretted omission of the merchants themselves promptly to discharge their bonds in specie, and of a like omission on the part of the banks (through the misfortunes or advice of many of their customers) not to continue to discharge their obligations in the manner provided by law and their agreements with the Treasury. One great and paramount object, therefore, in requiring that the public dues should continue to be paid to the United States in a legal manner, is, to enable the department, in this emergency, faithfully and promptly to pay others in that manner, and, as soon as practicable, to overcome any embarrassments or delays to its own creditors, which may have happened in consequence of the course pursued by those on whom the Government is immediately dependant for its available means. You justly intimate that the public payments ought to be made in this way; and you may rest assured that, in all cases where creditors are not otherwise satisfied, it will cheerfully be done the moment the Treasury is enabled to accomplish it by a compliance with their engagements on the part of those indebted to the United States.

If, from the accidents and misfortunes of others, in any instance, such an inability as you describe has occurred with any of our fiscal depositories or custom-house officers, and any reproach should inconsiderately be cast on the Government for this inability, which has been caused by others, (though, without doubt, unintentionally,) you may rest satisfied that no proper effort will be spared here to avoid *deserving* the censure of "extreme hardship or injustice" on this account, and (by strenuously endeavoring to do to others all which it asks of them) to discharge every claim

against the Government, in specie or its equivalent, at the earliest day practicable.

In connexion with this, and merely in justification of the Treasury, it may be proper to notice further, that, besides near thirty millions elsewhere, something like three-quarters of a million of dollars were due in your city alone, from merchants, and institutions of which many of them are members, and payable to the United States in specie and on demand, at the time your memorial was forwarded, setting forth the omission of our fiscal agents to pay in that currency some small demands held by a portion of the mercantile community.

This department is aware that, even after all its forbearances and mitigations, some embarrassments must still be undergone, in certain cases, by means of incidental difficulties, and the strictness of the laws as to cash duties, which were introduced wholly for the benefit of manufacturers, rather than of the finances. But it cannot concur in the opinion that during the present favorable condition of the country, in respect to its large amount of specie, it will be impossible to obtain sufficient for this purpose; and, considering that all which is paid must immediately return again into active circulation, it trusts that the merchants will find themselves fully indemnified for the inconvenience and limited sacrifices to which they may be exposed in obtaining the small sums necessary for their object by and after the liberal indulgences authorized on their duty bonds.

Thus, by instructions published at Boston since your letter was probably written, the disagreeable result you anticipate, to wit: "that there is no course left to the merchants but to submit to a suit and its unpleasant consequences," need rarely, if ever, occur in cases of real solvency; as liberal extensions of credit have been permitted, under proper circumstances, *before* as well as *after* suit, till the meeting of Congress; and, in addition to these, an extraordinary session of that body has been called by the President at the earliest convenient day, with a view, among other things, to afford an opportunity for new legislation to yield further relief in the present embarrassing posture of affairs.

With these explanations, and such others as appear in the documents before referred to, and which, ere this, have probably reached your city, the department cherishes a hope that your chamber of commerce will be satisfied that every thing of an alleviating character has already been done, in respect to duty bonds, which the laws sanction, and the public interests justify; that all proper exertions have been made, and are making by it, to preserve the same good and legal fidelity in its obligations to others which it requests of them; that if not successful, the failure will arise from the misfortunes or neglect of others; and that, by a firm perseverance in the path of duty on this subject, reciprocal aid will be conferred, both by the merchants and the Treasury, to preserve a sound state of the currency for all the public purposes, and gradually, if not speedily, restore one for all the ordinary transactions of life.

This department confides so much in the intelligence, correct principles, and patriotism of those who, through you, have addressed it, that it cannot doubt they will be solicitous to prevent, even in times of the greatest embarrassment, any discredit being cast on the character and practical workings of our free institutions.

It feels satisfied that the chamber of commerce, as well as the whole community, must, after reflecting on such considerations, become quite as

desirous as the undersigned for a mutual and vigorous co-operation to uphold the habitual opinions and practices in favor of the inviolability of the constitution and laws, which are fortunately so characteristic of the great mass of the population in every quarter of the Union.

It is in this manner only that the department can be enabled to carry on the fiscal operations of the Treasury, so as to maintain the public faith unimpaired at home and abroad, and sustain, as far as relates to the currency, a sound standard of value, in the true spirit of the constitution, and according to the best established principles of political economy.

Respectfully, yours,

LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

To WILLIAM STURGIS, *President*,
G. WALES, } *Vice Presidents, and*
R. G. SHAW, }
G. M. THATCHER, *Secretary of the Boston Chamber of Commerce.*

F 2.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
May 19, 1837.

SIR: This department has, with much surprise, seen several representations in the daily press concerning certain declarations made by you at a recent public meeting in New York city, as to the course you intended to pursue in future in collecting the public revenue.

The importance of the subject, and the nature of these representations, render it my unpleasant duty to call your immediate attention to them.

Some of the accounts of what took place represent you as saying, in substance, that, as the orders of the Treasury could not be complied with, you, on your own responsibility, would dispense with them; while others state that you understood a discretion had been left to you by the Executive on this subject; and that, in the exercise of such discretion, you should not conform to the instructions of the department, either by collecting the money yourself, which fell due for duties, or by collecting it in such kind of money as the laws require. Other representations convey the idea, that, if you pursued such a course, the Government would make no objection to it.

Under a belief that in these reports, as to your remarks and determination on this subject, some unfortunate errors must have occurred, or that you must have imbibed very incorrect opinions concerning the views entertained by the department, it becomes proper on the present occasion to repeat, in explicit terms, the real character and extent of those views.

1. The order as to the mode of collecting bonds by yourself, rather than through the banks, and in specie or its equivalent, was, in the last respect, in accordance with the course which you reported to this department for its approval on the suspension of payment by the banks. The order was the same in substance, in all respects, at your port, as that adopted at all other ports in the United States, where no banks paid specie on demand for their notes, and where, in that event, the express language of the deposite act of June, 1836, imperatively required their discontinuance as public depositories; and other laws virtually forbid the receipt of their notes for duties.

2. But, in the wide-spread calamity which had recently fallen on the commercial world, and, through it, upon those banking institutions, in common with others which were depositories of the public money, it was evident that our finances must become embarrassed through the previous embarrassments of others, and that great care and efforts must be exercised to meet faithfully the current public engagements. At the same time, it was desirable that every indulgence and forbearance should be exercised, and were intended by the President and this department to be liberally exercised, towards the public debtors, which those engagements would permit.

3. Accordingly, in order to mitigate the evils which pressed so heavily on the merchants, this department, with the sanction of the President, at once authorized a postponement to be granted, in all suitable cases, of the payment of duty bonds, as well before as after suit; and subsequently, as new events justified, permitted it to be extended till after the commencement of the next session of Congress.

The department likewise empowered the collectors to receive for duties the drafts of the Treasurer, in favor of the public creditors which might not be paid in specie to the holders by the banks on which they were drawn.

Outstanding debenture bonds are also receivable in the same way; and, to afford the opportunity to procure still further aid and relief, if it shall be deemed proper by Congress, that body has been specially convened by the President at the earliest convenient day.

After all these mitigating measures, neither the President nor this department saw any further indulgence which could be given consistent with the acts of Congress, and which it was within our powers to bestow, limited and regulated as those powers are by various express laws.

It was, and still is, hoped that the merchants would, till Congress assembled, cheerfully incur the diminished sacrifices, in respect to the payment of some of the duties, which their liabilities and business might render necessary; and that the officers connected with the customs would feel a pride, as well as zeal, in encouraging them to uphold the laws faithfully, and neither countenance nor permit any departures from them.

The Executive possesses no authority to delegate to you, nor has it intended to delegate, any discretion to disregard those laws in any particular, or to act contrary to the instructions of the department, which had been issued in conformity to them; nor can it sanction the exercise of any such discretion on the part of any of the officers of the customs.

It would seem better that the duties, whether due on bonds or in cash, when the goods are entered, and which the merchants may be unable, if not postponed, to pay in any of the legal modes before pointed out, till the early day on which Congress convenes, should go entirely unpaid from inability to meet them legally, than be collected or discharged in a manner that is not sanctioned either by the acts of Congress or our duty to the Government.

The department is willing to make liberal allowances for acts growing out of the sympathy naturally felt for the embarrassments of the commercial community, and the strong desire to contribute to their relief; but you must be sensible that the newspaper accounts which have already appeared are calculated to convey the idea that the President and this department are disposed to overlook, or even to approve, the unauthorized course which it is said you propose to adopt; and it is possible that, from your full knowledge of the sincerity and extent of the anxious desire of the President and of this

department to afford relief, you may have entertained the impression that such would be the case.

It therefore becomes my duty instantly to inform you that all such impressions are erroneous, and it is hoped that many of the considerations before stated will have occurred to you; and that, under their influence, you will continue to discharge your duties in the manner pointed out in the acts of Congress and the instructions of this department.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

SAMUEL SWARTWOUT, Esq.
Collector, New York.

F 3.

NEW YORK, *August* 28, 1837.

SIR: The undersigned have been appointed a committee of the chamber of commerce of the city of New York, for the purpose of addressing to you the following representations upon the subject of the payment of custom-house bonds becoming due, and of duties upon wool and woollen goods now lying in the public stores in this city.

It appears that there were custom-house bonds in the hands of the district attorney, payable previously to the first of this month, (August,)

for - - - - - - - - -			$2,200,000
And at custom-house, payable in August - - -			705,500
Ditto	do.	September - - -	1,004,727
Ditto	do.	October - - -	536,093
Ditto	do.	November - - -	350,646
Ditto	do.	December - - -	318,245
			5,115,211
And duties on merchandise not entered, now in public store, estimated at - - - - - -			2,000,000
		Total - - -	$7,115,211

This port being the recipient of merchandise destined for the consumption of a large portion of the Union, the importing merchants here assume, in the first instance, the responsibility of paying the duties to Government; and the history of the past may well attest the fidelity with which that responsibility has been discharged, until the present time, when the general condition of affairs has been so essentially changed.

After the banks of the Union had suspended specie payments, the difficulty of paying the dues to Government, in legal currency, became insurmountable, and, at the instance of this committee, the period of payment of custom-house bonds was postponed by your department until the 1st of October next, in order that Congress, which would then be assembled, might make the needful laws upon this new shape of things.

The mercantile and trading interests of the whole country have since been laboring under unparalleled difficulties, so that reliance can no longer be placed upon *receipts*, which mainly govern the regularity of *payments*, by all connected with commerce.

Owing to the entire derangement of the internal exchanges, and to the absence of a specie standard, funds, even when collected at various points of the Union, are generally unavailable as the means of payment here.

The banks of the city, with a laudable desire to resume specie payments at the earliest day, must adopt a system of restriction, and therefore withhold facilities, now more needed than ever by their dealers, whose collections in bank chiefly consist of payments of a part only of the amount due, with renewals for the remainder for two, three, and four months; and at the end of those periods, similar renewals are repeated.

This total derangement of all the means of carrying on the business of the country, throughout its various sections, has rendered the collection of debts impossible; and, accordingly, the vast amount due for goods already sold in this city, on which a large portion of existing duties were levied, remains unpaid, and without any immediate prospect of liquidation. Nor can sales now be made of foreign merchandise on hand; and it is impracticable to convert goods into money, as well from the inability to pay on the part of buyers, as from the unwillingness to sell on credit on the part of the holders; and sales by auction can only be made at ruinous sacrifices.

A general extension, to a large portion of their debtors, has also been granted, for a period of twelve months and upwards, by the importing merchants of this city; and there is now due from other places, to those engaged here in the importation and sale of foreign merchandise, a much larger amount than would pay off all debts from this city to the Government and to foreign countries.

A very large proportion of the means of the importing merchants is thus virtually withdrawn from their control, and scattered throughout the Union; whence it cannot be collected, in any available manner, in the present state of suspended payments by banks and individuals, of derangement in the domestic exchanges, and of interruption to business, throughout the whole country.

Under these circumstances, the importing merchants have no alternative left, but to ask the Government to apply to them the same measure of relief which they have granted to their debtors, by extending for a year the period of payment of bonds, and of other dues at the custom-house; at which time, it is fully believed there will remain no obstacle to a punctual discharge of all such indebtedness.

The like remarks apply to the inability of the importers of wool and woollen goods, now in public store, to pay duties; which will amount, according to the above estimate, to two millions of dollars. The Government holds these goods in its own keeping; therefore, the revenue is secure: and the extension of one year beyond the time required by law may, with entire safety, be granted to the importers for entering and paying the duties on these goods.

The undersigned, therefore, respectfully represent the necessity which, under the circumstances set forth herein, renders it expedient that Congress should interfere, at a day previous to the 1st of October next, by the passage of a law providing for the postponement of the collection of such bonds at the custom-house as may fall due prior to the 1st of January next, with assent of sureties, and upon interest; allowing, however, the option of earlier payment, and thus stopping interest: and, also, to extend, for one year, the respective periods within which goods subject, upon entry, to the payment of duties in cash, may be retained in the public stores.

In the hope that these suggestions may meet your approval, and, in that case, that you will see fit to recommend the passage of such a law, at the opening of the ensuing Congress, and, in the mean time, that you would favor us with a reply,

We have the honor to remain, sir, respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

J. BOORMAN,
JAMES D. P. OGDEN,
CHARLES H. RUSSELL,
JAMES BROWN,
JAMES LEE,
JAMES G. KING,
GEORGE GRISWOLD,
JOHN B. STEVENS,

Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New York.

To the Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington.

G.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
1837.

SIR: Having been furnished with a copy of the law passed by the Legislature of the State of , it appears that you are authorized to receive, in behalf of that State, the amount to be deposited therewith, by the provisions of the act of Congress "to regulate the depositesof the public money," approved 23d June, 1836.

That amount has been ascertained to be dollars, the quarterly payment of which will be made at the respective banks to which the enclosed transfer drafts, amounting in all to $, are directed, upon your executing a receipt agreeably to the enclosed form, to each of them, for the sums received therefrom.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

Secretary of the Treasury.

P S.—It may be useful, in the present embarrassed condition of the pecuniary concerns of the country and of the banks, to suggest, that, for reasons growing out of the deposite act, as well as the existing liabilities of the banks, and the obligations required from the States to the Treasury, no one of the latter is requested to accept, on the within transfers, any kind of money which is not available and at par, and which it is not ready to account for in the same way when required.

Should any of the banks, therefore, on which the transfers are drawn, fail to deposite with you such money, they may be returned to this department, with a statement of the fact, in order that the case may be submitted to Congress at its approaching session.

Form of a receipt by a State.

Whereas, by the 13th section of an act of the Congress of the United States, entitled "An act to regulate the deposites of the public money," ap-

proved the 23d of June, 1836, it was enacted "that the money which shall be in the Treasury of the United States on the 1st day of January, 1837, reserving the sum of five millions of dollars, shall be deposited with such of the several States, in proportion to their respective representation in the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, as shall by law authorize their treasurer, or the competent authorities, to receive the same, on the terms hereafter specified; and the Secretary of the Treasury shall deliver the same to such treasurer, or other competent authorities, on receiving certificates of deposite therefor, signed by such competent authorities, in such form as may be prescribed by the Secretary aforesaid:"

And whereas the State of has, by an act of its Legislature passed on the day of , one thousand eight hundred and thirty , authorized and directed the of the said State to receive its proportional share of the said surplus moneys of the United States on deposite with the said State, upon the terms specified in the said act of Congress:

And whereas the Secretary of the Treasury, in pursuance of the provisions of the said act of Congress, and in conformity with the provisions of the said act of the Legislature of the State of , has delivered to the thereof the sum of dollars and cents, the same being the first instalment, or one-fourth part, of the ratable proportion of the said State in the surplus money in the Treasury on the 1st day of January, 1837:

Now, therefore, be it known, that I, do hereby certify that the said sum of dollars and cents has been deposited by the Secretary of the Treasury with the State of , and that for the safe-keeping and repayment of the same to the United States, in conformity to said act of Congress, the State of is legally bound, and its faith is solemnly pledged. And in pursuance of the authority of the act of the Legislature aforesaid, for and in behalf of the said State, I hereby affix my signature and seal in testimony of the premises, and of the faith of the said State to pay the said money so deposited, and every part thereof, from time to time, whenever the same shall be required by the Secretary of the Treasury, for the purposes and in the manner and proportions set forth and described in the said recited 13th section of the act of Congress aforesaid, and by a requisition or notice similar in form to that hereto annexed, addressed to the care of the Governor of said State.

Signed and sealed this day of , one thousand eight hundred and thirty .

Attest:

The form of a requisition or notice for repayment will be substantially as follows:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
183 . .

TO THE STATE OF

Under the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An act to regulate the deposites of the public money," passed June 23d, 1836, and an act of said State passed , certain sums of money belonging to the United States having been deposited with the State aforesaid for safe-keeping and repayment, in conformity with the provisions of said act, said

State is hereby notified that a portion of said money, viz: the sum of $, is required to be repaid to the United States by the State aforesaid, for the purposes named in said act, and in conformity with its provisions.

Secretary of the Treasury.

Care of his Excellency

Governor of said State.

[The repayment of the said sum to the Treasurer of the United States will be in one of the following modes, which this department may in any particular case prefer and direct, viz:

1. By a request annexed to the above requisition to place the same to the credit of said Treasurer in the Bank of , at , on or before the day of next, and to take duplicate receipts therefor; one of which receipts sent to the said Treasurer will be a sufficient voucher for the amount of said repayment on the part of said State.

2. Or, by a request written by said Secretary on the back of a common Treasury warrant, directed to the State for payment by said Treasurer, that said State would pay the same; and which warrant, with a receipt of payment thereon, will be a sufficient voucher as aforesaid.]

H 1.

Circular from the Secretary of the Treasury with regard to the receipt, and transmission by mail, of bank notes.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
September 22, 1789.

SIR: In consequence of arrangements lately taken with the Bank of North America and the Bank of New York, for the accommodation of the Government, I am to inform you that it is my desire that the notes of those banks, payable either on demand, or at no longer period than thirty days after their respective dates, should be received in payment of the duties, as equivalent to gold and silver; and that they will be received from you as such by the Treasurer of the United States.

This measure, besides the immediate accommodation to which it has reference, will facilitate remittances from the several States, without drawing away their specie; an advantage, in every view, important.

I shall cause you shortly to be furnished with indications of the genuine notes as will serve to guard you against counterfeits, and shall direct the manner of remitting them. In the mean time, and until further orders, you will please to receive them, transmitting to me a weekly account of your receipts.

The Treasurer of the United States will probably have occasion to draw upon you for part of the compensation of the members of Congress from your State. These drafts you will also receive in payment of the duties, or

in exchange for any specie arising from them which shall have come to your hands.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER HAMILTON,
Secretary of the Treasury.

OTHO H. WILLIAMS,
Collector of the Customs for Baltimore, Maryland.

H 2.

Extract from a report of the Secretary of the Treasury, of April 22, 1790, with regard to the collection law.

SECTION 30.—This section provides for the receipt of the duties in gold and silver coin only. The Secretary has considered this provision as having for object the exclusion of payments in the paper emissions of the particular States, and the securing the immediate or ultimate collection of the duties in specie, as intended to prohibit to individuals the right of paying in any thing except gold or silver coin, but not to hinder the Treasury from making such arrangements as its exigencies, the speedy command of the public resources, and the convenience of the community, might dictate; those arrangements being compatible with the eventual receipt of the duties in specie. For instance: the Secretary did not imagine that the provision ought to be so understood as to prevent, if necessary, an anticipation of the duties by Treasury drafts receivable at the several custom-houses. And, if it ought not to be understood in this sense, it appeared to him that the principle of a different construction would extend to the permitting the receipt of the notes of public banks issued on a specie fund. Unless it can be supposed that the exchanging of specie, after it has been received for bank notes, to be remitted to the Treasury, is also interdicted, it seems difficult to conclude that the receipt of them, in the first instance, is forbidden.

Such were the reflections of the Secretary with regard to the authority to permit bank notes to be taken in payment of the duties. The expediency of doing it appeared to him to be still less questionable. The extension of their circulation by the measure is calculated to increase both the ability and the inclination of the banks to aid the Government. It also accelerates the command of the product of the revenues for the public service, and it facilitates the payment of the duties. It has the first effect, because the course of business occasions the notes to be sent beforehand to distant places, and, being ready on the spot, either for payment or exchange, the first post after the duties become payable, or are received, conveys them to the Treasury. The substitution of Treasury drafts, anticipating the duties, could hardly be made without some sacrifice on the part of the public, as they would be drawn upon time; and upon the expectation of funds to be collected, and, of course, contingent, it is not probable that they would obtain a ready sale, but at a discount, or upon long credit. As they would, also, be more or less liable to accident, from the failure of expected payments, there would be continually a degree of hazard to public credit. And, to other considerations, it may be added, that the practice of anticipations of this kind is, in its nature, so capable of abuse, as to render it an

ineligible instrument of administration in ordinary cases, and fit only for times of necessity.

If the idea of anticipation should be excluded, then the relying wholly upon Treasury drafts would be productive of considerable delay. The knowledge that funds were in hand, must precede the issuing of them; here would, of course, be some loss of time. And as the moment of demand, created by the course of business, would frequently elapse, there would as frequently be a further loss of time in waiting for a new demand. In such intervals the public service would suffer, the specie would be locked up, and circulation checked. Bank notes being a convenient species of money, whatever increases their circulation increases the quantity of current money. Hence, the payment of duties is doubly promoted by their aid; they at once add to the quantity of medium, and serve to prevent the stagnation of specie.

The tendency of the measure to lessen the necessity of drawing specie from distant places to the seat of Government results from the foregoing considerations. The slow operation of Treasury drafts would frequently involve a necessity of bringing on specie to answer the exigencies of Government; the avoiding of which as much as possible, in the particular situation of this country, need not be insisted upon.

I.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
May —, 1837.

Sir: As the painful information has reached this department, through the public press, that your bank has suspended specie payments, the object of this letter is to learn, officially, if that fact has happened; and to receive such explanations concerning the reasons for it, and the future course of your business, as it will be apparent are so important for this department to know, under the existing liabilities and relations between you and the Government.

While, on the one hand, it is deemed proper that such indulgences should be granted by this department to its former fiscal agents as they may request, consistently with the laws and with the present state of the Treasury; it must be apparent, on the other hand, that nothing can be granted which is likely to endanger the safety of the public funds, and other important public interests.

The imperative provisions of the act of June, 1836, make it the duty of this department to discontinue ordering any further sums of public money to be placed with the deposite banks, after suspending specie payments. And hence you are notified, that no more can be thus deposited in your institution, provided such a failure to redeem your notes has actually occurred.

It is also made my duty as soon as practicable to select other depositories, and place with them the money of the United States in your possession, as well as the accruing revenue; but the department will endeavor to draw out the funds in your hands by warrants and transfers, reasonable in their amount and in the periods of their payment. Such warrants and transfers, it is trusted, you will at all times be anxious and able to meet, in a manner satisfactory to all concerned; not only with a view to fulfil faith-

fully your contract, and relieve the Treasury and its creditors from embarrassment and losses, but to exonerate yourselves and sureties from consequences equally injurious, inevitable, and unpleasant.

I trust, further, that you will continue to regard it your duty, while any public money remains in your possession, to forward, regularly, all the returns and statements which are required by your agreement—the mutual advantages from doing which, cannot fail to be obvious.

The department will also feel much obliged if you will furnish, as early as practicable, replies to the two following inquiries, in order that it may be in possession of such intelligence from you, in an authentic form, as will be useful to the community and the States, and very material for regulating properly the future measures of the Treasury. Those inquiries are—

1st. Whether you expect to resume specie payments soon, and what mode you propose to take fully and seasonably to indemnify, secure, and satisfy the Government and the public creditors for any breach of your agreement and bond?

2d. Whether, if you do not expect to resume specie payments soon, any particular time for it hereafter has been yet decided on, and what special efforts or arrangements you intend to make for that very important object?

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

To the CASHIER *of the* ——— *Bank.*

K.

List of deposite banks discontinued under the deposite act of June, 1836.

Mercantile Bank, Bangor, Maine.
Maine Bank, Portland, Maine.
Cumberland Bank, Portland, Maine.
Granite Bank, Augusta, Maine.
York Bank, Saco, Maine.
New Hampshire Bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
Commercial Bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
Portsmouth Bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
Piscataqua Bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
Merrimack County Bank, Concord, New Hampshire.
Mechanics' Bank, Concord, New Hampshire.
Merchants' Bank, Boston, Massachusetts.
Commonwealth Bank, Boston, Massachusetts.
Franklin Bank, Boston, Massachusetts.
Fulton Bank, Boston, Massachusetts.
Hancock Bank, Boston, Massachusetts.
Phœnix Bank, Charlestown, Massachusetts.
Bank of Burlington, Vermont.
Bank of Windsor, Windsor, Vermont.
Quinebaug Bank, Norwich, Connecticut.
Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, Hartford, Connecticut.
Mechanics' Bank, New Haven, Connecticut.
Arcade Bank, Providence, Rhode Island.

Rhode Island Union Bank, Newport, Rhode Island.
Mechanics and Farmers' Bank, Albany, New York.
Manhattan Company, New York, N. Y.
Bank of America, New York, N. Y.
Mechanics' Bank, New York, N. Y.
Seventh Ward Bank, New York, N. Y.
Lafayette Bank, New York, N. Y.
Phœnix Bank, New York, N. Y.
Leather Manufacturers' Bank, New York, N. Y.
Tradesmen's Bank, New York, N. Y.
Dry Dock Company, New York, N. Y.
Merchants' Bank, New York, N. Y.
Union Bank, New York, N. Y.
National Bank, New York, N. Y.
Merchants' Exchange Bank, New York, N. Y.
Brooklyn Bank, Brooklyn, New York.
Commercial Bank, Buffalo, New York.
Troy Bank, Troy, New York.
Trenton Banking Company, New Jersey.
State Bank, Newark, New Jersey.
State Bank, Elizabeth, New Jersey.
Girard Bank, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Moyamensing Bank, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Merchants and Manufacturers' Bank, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.
Bank of Wilmington and Brandywine, Wilmington, Delaware.
Bank of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware.
Union Bank of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland.
Franklin Bank, Baltimore, Maryland.
Bank of the Metropolis, District of Columbia.
Bank of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.
Farmers' Bank of Virginia, at Richmond, Virginia.
Bank of the State of North Carolina, Raleigh, North Carolina.
Planters and Mechanics' Bank, Charleston, South Carolina.
Bank of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina.
Bank of Augusta, Georgia.
Branch Bank of Alabama, Mobile, Alabama.
Union Bank of Louisiana, and branches, New Orleans, Louisiana.
Commercial Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana.
Planters' Bank of Mississippi, and branches, Natchez, Mississippi.
Agricultural Bank and branches, Natchez, Mississippi.
Union Bank of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee.
Planters' Bank and branches, Nashville, Tennessee.
Bank of Kentucky and branches, Louisville, Kentucky.
Northern Bank of Kentucky, at Lexington, and branch at Louisville, Kentucky.
Clinton Bank of Columbus, Ohio.
Franklin Bank of Columbus, Ohio.
Bank of Chillicothe, Ohio.
Franklin Bank, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Commercial Bank, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Agency of Commercial Bank at St. Louis, Missouri.
Bank of Zanesville, Ohio.

Bank of Wooster, Ohio.
Commercial Bank of Lake Erie at Cleaveland, Ohio.
Bank of Cleaveland at Cleaveland, Ohio.
State Bank of Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana.
Illinois Bank, at Shawneetown, Illinois.
Bank of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan.
Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Detroit, Michigan.
*Bank of River Raisin, Michigan.

L.

List of present deposite banks under the act of June, 1836.

People's Bank, Bangor, Maine.
†Brooklyn Bank, Brooklyn, New York.
Planters' Bank of Georgia, Savannah, Georgia.
Insurance Bank of Columbus, Georgia.
Louisville Savings Institution, Kentucky.
Bank of the State of Missouri, St. Louis.

M 1.

To Collectors of the Customs.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
May 12, 1837.

If the bank where you deposite should suspend specie payments, you will yourself collect, and keep safely in your own hands, the public money for all duties at your port, until further directions are given to you by this department how to deposite, transfer, or pay it. You must, of course, continue to adhere to the existing laws of Congress, and the former instructions of the Treasury, in respect to the kind of money receivable for customs; and by which it is understood to be your duty to require payments to be made in specie, or the notes of specie-paying banks that are at par.

LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

M 2.

Circular to receivers of public moneys.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
May 12, 1837.

If the bank where you deposite should suspend specie payments, you will keep in your own hands, safely, the public money you have in possession, or may hereafter receive, till further directions are given to you by this department how to deposite, transfer, or pay it, or any portion of it.

You will report to this department, weekly, the amount on hand.

LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

*Discontinued by its request, before the suspension of specie payments.
† Reappointed when resumed specie payments.

N.

Circular instructions to collectors of the customs, and receivers of public money.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
June 9, 1837.

SIR: Should all the banks in your vicinity, selected as depositories of the public money, have suspended specie payments at any time so that you can no longer legally deposite in them, as usual, to the credit of the Treasurer, all public moneys received by you, except such sums as may be required to meet the current expenses of your office, the payment of debenture certificates by collectors, &c.; in other words, the sums you would formerly have placed in bank to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, will, under the present arrangements, be placed to his credit, in a separate account, on the books of your office. They will be drawn for, by him, in the following manner, and no other:

1st. By the Treasurer's draft on the officer having funds to his credit, directing the payment; which draft will be recorded by the Register of the Treasury, who will authenticate the record by his signature. A private letter of advice will be transmitted by the Treasurer in each case.

2d. By a transfer draft signed as above, and approved by the signature of the Secretary of the Treasury, for the purpose of transferring funds to some other point where they may be required for the service of the Government.

No deduction whatever is to be made from the moneys placed by you to the credit of the Treasurer, except in one of these two modes, until they can be lodged by you with some legal depository.

On payment of any draft, the party to whom it is paid will receipt it. You will note on it the day of payment, will charge it on the same day to the Treasurer, and will transmit it to him with the return of his account in which it is charged. In charging these payments, it will be proper to enter each draft separately, and to state the number and kind of draft, whether transfer, or on Treasury, War, or Navy warrants, and the amount.

It is also necessary that the Treasurer's account be closed *weekly* with the conclusion of Saturdays' business, and transcripts thereof forwarded in duplicate—one copy to the Secretary of the Treasury, and one to the Treasurer. When the quarter of the year terminates on any other day of the week, the account should be closed on the last day of the quarter—leaving for an additional return the transactions from that time to the close of the week: so that neither the receipts nor payments of different quarters be included in one return. Punctuality in transmitting the returns is indispensable.

To produce uniformity in the manner of making the returns of the Treasurer's account, a form is herewith transmitted. For the purpose of binding, it is requested that they be made on paper of nearly the same size. Your *monthly* returns must be rendered to the department as heretofore.

When the public money shall have accumulated in your hands to an amount exceeding dollars, you can make a special deposite of the same, in your name, for safe-keeping in the nearest bank in which you have heretofore deposited the public money, and which will receive the same, to

be held by it, specially subject to the payment of checks or drafts drawn by the Treasurer of the United States on the officer by whom the same has been deposited.

LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

O.

Extract from Treasury Report, April 22d, 1790, to the House of Representatives.

"As connected with the difficulties that have occurred in the execution of the laws, which is the subject of this report, the Secretary begs leave, in the last place, to mention the want of an officer in each State, or other considerable sub-division of the United States, having the general superintendence of all the officers of the revenue within such State or such division.

"Among the inconveniences attending it, is a great difficulty in drawing from the more remote ports the moneys which are there collected. As the course of business creates little or no demand at the seat of Government, or in its vicinity, for drafts upon such places, negotiations, in this way, are either very dilatory or impracticable; neither does the circulation of bank paper, from the same cause, extend to them. This embarrassment would be remedied by having one person in each State, or in a district of the United States, of convenient extent, charged with the receipt of all the moneys arising within it, and placed, in point of residence, where there was the greatest intercourse with the seat of Government. This would greatly facilitate negotiations between the Treasury and distant parts of the Union, and would contribute to lessening the necessity of the transportation of specie."

P.

STATEMENT of the number and amount of warrants drawn on the United States Bank and Branches, and the other banks which were depositories of the public moneys, during the year ending December 31, 1834.

EASTERN STATES.

Place.	No. of warrants.	Amount.
Portland	76	$142,020 00
Portsmouth	48	145,752 00
Boston	296	2,610,636 00
Salem	16	56,960 00
Providence	30	86,635 00
Newport	15	16,724 00
Bristol, Rhode Island	14	43,372 00
Hartford	14	129,499 00
Middletown, Connecticut	10	2,215 00
New Haven	43	64,328 00
Burlington	41	78,885 00
	603	3,377,026 00
New London	–	–
Bath	–	–

MIDDLE STATES.

New York	874	6,275,628 00
Utica	13	8,278 00
Buffalo	21	9,490 00
Philadelphia	438	5,156,461 00
Harrisburg	1	8 00
Pittsburg	76	88,978 00
Baltimore	237	689,328 00
Washington	1,458	4,163,631 00
Georgetown	1	60,000 00
Alexandria	10	2,041 00
	3,129	16,453,843 00
Albany	–	–
Newcastle	–	–

STATEMENT P—Continued.

SOUTHERN STATES.

Place.	No. of warrants.	Amount.
Richmond	75	$196,358 00
Norfolk	111	696,744 00
Petersburg	4	11,104 00
Fayetteville, North Carolina	44	71,756 00
Charleston, South Carolina	152	344,278 00
Savannah	63	164,370 00
Augusta	10	4,182 00
	459	1,488,792 00
Fredericksburg	–	–
Lynchburg	–	–

SOUTHWESTERN STATES.

Mobile	128	540,174 00
New Orleans	192	988,551 00
Natchez	52	151,633 00
Nashville	53	115,931 00
	425	1,796,289 00
Columbus, Mississippi	–	–

WESTERN STATES.

St. Louis	111	542,291 00
Louisville	47	211,248 00
Lexington	13	84,413 00
Cincinnati	96	532,971 00
Detroit	116	521,409 00
	383	1,892,332 00

STATEMENT P—Continued.

SUMMARY.

	No. of warrants.	Amount.
Eastern States - - - -	603	$3,377,026 00
Middle States - - - -	3,129	16,453,843 00
Southern States - - -	459	1,488,792 00
Southwestern States - - -	425	1,796,289 00
Western States - - - -	383	1,892,332 00
	4,999	25,008,282 00

Average about $5,000 for each warrant.
Not 1 per each day in each State.
Not 1 per each week in some States.
About 4 each day in Washington city.
About 2 each day in New York.
Not over 1 each day elsewhere in any case.

Q.—*COMPARATIVE condition of deposite banks in certain particulars in November,* 1836, *and in March, May, July, and August,* 1837.

	1st Nov., 1836.	1st March, 1837.	1st May, 1837.	1st July, 1837.	15th Aug., 1837.
IMMEDIATE MEANS.					
Specie	$15,520,202	$15,312,892	$13,331,610	$11,429,012	$10,560,413
Notes of other banks	16,412,324	17,671,447	11,484,769	10,333,914	9,545,429
Due from other banks	26,662,669	25,299,056	22,526,351	22,430,627	24,683,001
	58,595,195	58,283,395	47,342,730	44,193,553	44,808,843
IMMEDIATE LIABILITIES.					
Circulation	41,482,897	44,827,595	37,617,795	31,779,874	32,626,004
Due to banks	24,063,161	26,258,412	24,590,245	23,665,746	25,063,891
Deposites: Treasurer of the United States	45,059,539	38,960,294	26,868,006	21,039,325	13,944,666
Deposites: Public officers	4,318,446	5,350,454	5,264,052	5,121,444	4,574,076
Deposites: Private deposites	26,573,479	29,957,429	30,775,428	30,112,970	29,492,113
	141,517,522	145,354,184	125,109,526	111,719,359	104,720,750
All discounts	- -	171,287,054	154,227,992	139,718,823	130,597,192

CONDITION of deposite banks on or about June 15*th,* 1837, *in different sections of the country.*

REGION IN WHICH SITUATED.	Specie.	Notes of other b'nks.	Due by other banks.	Due to other banks.	Private deposites.	Public officers.	Treasurer of the U. S.	Circulation.
New England States	$672,816	$1,085,811	$1,549,298	$1,242,997	$2,043,211	$523,064	$1,895,897	$1,660,966
New York	1,772,610	3,301,886	9,206,289	7,861,943	10,765,871	760,705	4,804,287	4,258,010
N. Jersey, Penn., Delaware, Maryland, and Dist. of Col.	744,557	1,393,242	1,977,216	2,382,537	2,487,014	1,763,546	2,849,455	2,257,932
Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia	2,068,954	822,560	1,160,059	1,806,150	4,449,964	618,577	1,470,627	6,884,459
Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee	1,168,022	554,149	2,604,942	5,675,864	4,520,550	1,285,391	6,298,897	9,375,961
Other western States, including Michigan	4,174,977	1,734,815	5,830,175	3,368,293	2,733,988	385,730	7,252,544	8,047,308
	10,601,936	8,892,463	22,337,979	22,337,784	27,000,598	5,337,013	24,571,707	32,484,656

R.

TREASURER'S WEEKLY STATEMENT, showing the amount at his credit in the various banks of public deposite and the Mint, by the returns received to Monday, August 28, 1837; *the amount for which drafts and warrants have been issued, and were then unpaid; and the amount then remaining subject to his draft.*

Date of bank returns.	In what banks.	On deposite. By last returns.	Warrants heretofore drawn, but not yet paid, though payable.	Subject to draft, exclusive of transfers, not entered by banks.
August 19	Maine Bank, Portland, Maine	$54,245 33	$35,639 58	$18,605 75
19	Cumberland Bank, Portland, Maine	23,859 15	15,250 00	8,609 15
19	People's Bank, Bangor, Maine	20,537 97	8,000 00	12,537 97
19	York Bank, Saco, Maine	82 42	82 42	
19	New Hampshire Bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire	7,848 54	7,848 54	
19	Commercial Bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire	28,777 81	20 00	28,757 81
19	Portsmouth Bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire	8,814 50	8,814 50	
14	Piscataqua Bank, Portsmouth, New Hampshire	22,578 46	10,148 96	12,429 50
21	Merrimack County Bank, Concord, New Hampshire	23,732 00	8,200 00	15,532 00
19	Mechanics' Bank, Concord, New Hampshire	22,275 00	9,700 00	12,575 00
19	Merchants' Bank, Boston, Massachusetts	21,820 75	21,820 75	
19	Commonwealth Bank, Boston, Massachusetts	24,920 98	18,236 97	6,684 01
July 8	Franklin Bank, Boston, Massachusetts	16,800 00	–	16,800 00
August 19	Fulton Bank, Boston, Massachusetts	17,736 67	17,736 67	
19	Bank of Burlington, Vermont	85 49	85 49	
5	Bank of Windsor, Windsor, Vermont	503 15	503 15	
19	Mercantile Bank, Bangor, Maine	18,318 08	15,150 00	3,168 08
28	Metropolis (special)	140,541 62	–	140,541 62
12	Quinebaug Bank, Norwich, Connecticut	12,784 11	8,390 00	4,394 11
21	Mechanics' Bank, New Haven, Connecticut	18,845 07	14,930 00	3,915 07

	19	Arcade Bank, Providence, Rhode Island	-	-	1,616	25	1,616	25
	19	Rhode Island Union Bank, Newport, Rhode Island	-	-	3,816	81	301	55
	19	Mechanics and Farmers' Bank, Albany, New York	-	-	21,024	88	21,024	88
	21	Manhattan Company, New York, New York	-	-	226,880	92	137,699	97
	19	Bank of America, New York, New York	-	-	429,027	16	217,144	05
	21	Mechanics' Bank, New York, New York	-	-	255,044	82	278,886	66
	12	Lafayette Bank, New York, New York	-	-	39,000	00	50,000	00
	21	Phœnix Bank, New York, New York	-	-	8,438	08	8,438	08
	26	Tradesmen's Bank, New York, New York	-	-	21,000	00	6,000	00
	18	Dry Dock Company, New York, New York	-	-	40,000	00	20,000	00
	19	Merchants' Bank, New York, New York	-	-	62,500	00	52,317	17
	19	Union Bank, New York, New York	-	-	52,758	93	36,030	00
	19	National Bank, New York, New York	-	-	21,994	12	1,500	00
	19	Merchants' Exchange Bank, New York, New York		-	15,000	00	15,000	00
	12	Brooklyn Bank, at Brooklyn, New York	-	-	94,616	35	5,040	00
May	20	Commercial Bank, at Buffalo, New York	-	-	99,613	76	37,775	88
August	19	Troy Bank, at Troy, New York	-	-		20	00	20
	19	Trenton Banking Company, New Jersey	-	-	24,756	50	24,756	00
	19	State Bank at Newark, New Jersey	-	-	50,750	42	26,044	00
	15	State Bank at Elizabeth, New Jersey	-	-	20,000	00	16,796	00
	19	Girard Bank, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	-	-	249,924	35	159,866	98
	19	Moyamensing Bank, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania		-	5,521	57	–	
July	31	Bank of Delaware, at Wilmington, Delaware	-	-	2,906	67	2,906	67
August	19	Union Bank of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland	-	-	219,283	06	86,336	28
	26	Franklin Bank, Baltimore, Maryland	-	-	60,915	19	42,280	03
	28	Bank of the Metropolis, District of Columbia	-	-	2,162	83	2,153	79
	26	Bank of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia	-	-	72,426	98	231	50
	19	Branch Bank of Virginia, at Norfolk, Virginia	-	-	174,905	76	11,565	36
	21	Farmers' Bank of Virginia, at Richmond, Virginia		-	148,467	35	46,179	03
July	29	Farmers' Bank of Virginia, at Winchester, Virginia		-	7,336	88	7,336	88
August	19	Bank of the State of North Carolina, Raleigh, N. C.		-	146,030	12	59,610	00

	3,515	26
	89,180	95
	211,883	11
	15,000	00
	20,000	00
	10,182	83
	16,728	93
	20,494	12
	89,576	35
	61,837	88
		50
	24,706	42
	3,204	00
	90,057	37
	5,521	57
	132,946	78
	18,670	16
	9	04
	72,195	48
	163,340	40
	102,288	32
	86,420	12

TREASURER'S WEEKLY STATEMENT—Continued.

Date of bank returns.	In what banks.	On deposite. By last returns.	Warrants heretofore drawn, but not yet paid, though payable.	Subject to draft, exclusive of transfers, not entered by banks.
August 19	Planters and Mechanics' Bank, Charleston, S. Carolina -	$50,646 78	$50,404 74	$242 04
21	Bank of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina -	60,943 23	61,737 12	
19	Planters' Bank of Georgia, Savannah, Georgia - -	130,065 17	75,395 65	54,669 52
12	Bank of Augusta, Georgia - - - -	37,169 52	37,169 52	
12	Insurance Bank of Columbus, at Columbus, Georgia -	5,035 00	5,035 00	
12	Branch Bank of Alabama, Mobile, Alabama - -	1,020,856 26	213,932 59	806,923 67
July 22	Union Bank of Louisiana and branches, New Orleans, La.	586,066 05	54,995 16	531,070 89
August 5	Commercial Bank, New Orleans, Louisiana - -	863,956 98	234,178 45	629,778 53
July 31	Planters' Bank of Mississippi and branches, Natchez, Miss.	895,308 67	37,716 08	857,592 59
August 5	Agricultural Bank and branches, Natchez, Mississippi -	849,065 04	170,595 00	678,470 04
12	Union Bank of Tennessee, Nashville - - -	242,885 61	213,897 95	28,987 66
12	Planters' Bank and branches, Nashville, Tennessee -	271,630 87	223,459 34	48,171 53
19	Bank of Kentucky and branches, Louisville, Kentucky -	601,112 17	69,151 26	531,960 91
19	Louisville Savings Institution, Kentucky - -	85,463 34	6,750 00	78,713 34
19	Northern Bank of Kentucky, Louisville, Kentucky -	105,231 45	–	105,231 45
19	Northern Bank of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky -	51,439 82	60,000 00	
19	Clinton Bank of Columbus, Ohio - - -	419 73	389 73	30 00
19	Franklin Bank of Columbus, Ohio - - -	52,631 83	16,110 27	36,521 56
19	Bank of Chillicothe, Ohio - - - -	198,882 00	142,500 00	56,382 00
19	Franklin Bank, Cincinnati, Ohio - - -	403,103 18	33,000 00	370,103 18
19	Commercial Bank, Cincinnati, Ohio - - -	347,941 54	44,590 07	303,351 47
5	Agency of Com. Bank of Cincinnati at St. Louis, Missouri	589,327 63	257,204 10	332,123 53
19	Bank of Wooster, Ohio - - - -	44,221 05	27,250 00	16,971 05

19	Commercial Bank of Lake Erie at Cleaveland, Ohio -	60,682 75	–	60,682 75
21	Bank of Cleaveland, Cleaveland, Ohio - - -	20,097 42	13,211 52	6,885 90
12	Branch of State Bank of Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana	11,757 97	630 92	11,127 05
19	Branch of State Bank of Indiana at Madison, Indiana -	139,375 87	–	139,375 87
19	Branch of State Bank of Indiana at New Albany, Indiana	249,202 33	–	249,202 33
12	Branch of State Bank of Indiana at Lawrenceburg, Indiana	322,793 46	634 08	322,159 38
19	Branch of State Bank of Indiana at Richmond, Indiana -	20,000 00	–	20,000 00
5	Illinois Bank at Shawneetown, Illinois - - -	39,795 90	870 60	38,925 30
12	Bank of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan - - -	621,993 22	204,535 00	417,458 22
19	Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Detroit, Michigan -	376,057 62	44,710 00	331,347 62
26	Mint, to procure metal for coining - - -	835,875 00	2,000 00	833,875 00
		13,253,916 32	3,877,468 19	(a) 9,420,644 04

(a) In consequence of outstanding transfer drafts between banks not yet entered upon those returns, there is a difference between this sum and the true amount, which is $9,332,068 13. Deducting the amount of State transfers for the third instalment issued in favor of the States and unpaid, which is $1,165,575 28, there remains in the banks, subject to draft, the sum of $8,166,492 85.

TREASURER'S OFFICE, *August* 30, 1837.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

S.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
May 24, 1837.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

SIR: In consequence of the recent suspension of specie payments by most of the banks in which the disbursing officers of the Government made their deposites of public money, the undersigned has deemed it proper to take the opinion of the Attorney General on the effect of that measure upon those deposites; and, in consequence thereof, submits the following recommendations to the President:

1st. That all those officers be instructed, by the several departments to which they belong, to make their subsequent deposites in those banks only which pay specie, if such can conveniently be resorted to for that purpose.

2d. That, in the event of there being none such, they are to be instructed to deposite in those banks which are willing to give, and do give, such written obligation as the nearest district attorney of the United States may deem sufficient and safe to secure the return of the deposites punctually, when wanted, in such kind of money as was placed in said banks; and

3d. That the existing deposites of those officers, whenever not now in such banks, and not soon expended, be withdrawn, and placed within them as far as practicable.

Respectfully, yours,
LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Approved: M. VAN BUREN, *President.*

Let a copy of the above be sent to each department.
M. VAN BUREN, *President.*

T.

Circular to collectors of the customs and receivers of public moneys.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
May 17, 1837.

SIR: You will receive, enclosed, the blank form in which the Treasurer of the United States will, hereafter, issue his drafts in convenient sums for payments to the creditors of the Government, and for advances made, in pursuance of law, to disbursing officers, with the signatures of the Treasurer and Register written on its face, for information as to their handwriting.

The warrants on which these drafts may be issued will be retained in the possession of the Treasurer; and the drafts will be directed for payment, either to a cashier of a bank, a collector of the customs, or a receiver of public moneys, as the convenience of the service may require. For greater safety, notice will be given by the Treasurer to the bank, collector, or receiver, on whom they shall be drawn, stating the date, number, and amount of each draft drawn on them respectively, and also the name of the person or persons in whose favor they issue.

If the drafts on the banks be not seasonably discharged on presentment, the collectors and receivers are requested to redeem them by receiving them in payment for duties or public lands, provided that before they shall be received by any such collector or receiver, a certificate that they have been properly presented to the bank, and not paid, shall be furnished. This certificate will be given on the back of them by the cashier of the bank on which they are drawn; or, on his failure to give such certificate, or his signature not being known or verified to the collector and the receiver, the Treasurer of the United States, on a return of the checks to him, and his being convinced, by any evidence, that the bank declines to pay them in a manner satisfactory to the holder, will himself make a certificate thereon, which will justify the abovenamed officers in taking them up in the manner before described.

The drafts so received by you will immediately be cancelled by a cross with ink, on their face, and a hole cut through the centre of them. Retaining a schedule of the numbers and amount of each, you will then transmit them, weekly, to the Treasurer of the United States; and the officers by whom they were taken up will, on their receipt by the Treasurer, obtain credits in their accounts with the United States for the amount of such as are correct. You will also return to him, weekly, a statement of the gross amount of checks taken up, and of the gross amount of money on hand.

The banks on which these checks are drawn, if paying them, will be expected to act in a similar manner as to cancelling and returning them weekly to the Treasurer.

LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

U.

STATEMENT of the condition of the several deposite banks, according *August,*

STATES.	Names and location of banks.	Date of return.
MAINE	Maine Bank, at Portland	Aug. 12
	Bank of Cumberland, Portland	14
	Granite Bank, Augusta	July 15
	People's Bank, Bangor	Aug. 15
	York Bank, Saco	12
	Mercantile Bank, Bangor	15
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Commercial Bank, Portsmouth	14
	Merrimack County Bank, Concord	15
	Portsmouth Bank, Portsmouth	12
	New Hampshire Bank, Portsmouth	19
	Piscataqua Bank, Portsmouth	14
	Mechanics' Bank, Concord	15
VERMONT	Bank of Burlington	17
	Bank of Windsor	1
MASSACHUSETTS	Merchants' Bank, Boston	15
	Hancock Bank, Boston	July 15
	Fulton Bank, Boston	May 1
	Franklin Bank, Boston	June 15
	Commonwealth Bank, Boston	Aug. 16
	Phœnix Bank, Charlestown	July 31
CONNECTICUT	Mechanics' Bank, New Haven	Aug. 14
	Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, Hartford	20
	Quinebaug Bank, Norwich	15
RHODE ISLAND	Arcade Bank, Providence	15
	Rhode Island Union Bank, Newport	12
NEW YORK	Lafayette Bank, New York	8
	Seventh Ward Bank, New York	July 24
	Manhattan Company, New York	Aug. 16
	Bank of America, New York	14
	Leather Manufacturers' Bank, New York	July 31
	Mechanics and Farmers' Bank, Albany	Aug. 15
	Mechanics' Bank, New York	15
	Phœnix Bank, New York	16
	Merchants' Bank, New York	11
	Tradesmen's Bank, New York	July 31
	Union Bank, New York	Aug. 19
	Brooklyn Bank, Brooklyn	15
	Bank of Troy, Troy	15
	Merchants' Exchange Bank, New York	1
	National Bank, New York	15
NEW JERSEY	Trenton Banking Company, Trenton	15
	State Bank, at Newark	17
	State Bank, at Elizabethtown	July 31
PENNSYLVANIA	Girard Bank, at Philadelphia	29
	Moyamensing Bank, Philadelphia	Aug. 9
	Merchants and Manufacturers' Bank, Pittsburg	9
DELAWARE	Bank of Delaware, Wilmington	July 1
MARYLAND	Franklin Bank of Baltimore	Aug. 14
	Union Bank of Maryland, Baltimore	21
DISTR'T OF COLUMBIA	Bank of the Metropolis, Washington	15
VIRGINIA	Bank of Virginia and branches	15
	Farmers' Bank of Virginia, Richmond	17
	Branch of ditto, at Winchester	July 15
NORTH CAROLINA	Bank of the State, at Raleigh	22

U.

to returns received at the Treasury Department, on or near the 15*th day of* 1837.

Loans and discounts.	Bills of exchange.	Suspended debt.	Stocks.
$318,100 31	$108,931 00		
353,064 69	74,309 70		
94,221 55	41,076 67		
85,894 88	36,017 92	$6,831 31	
136,822 66	-	653 25	
108,802 54	18,858 30		
257,275 26	7,766 89		
134,396 83	-	570 41	
114,051 50	7,699 63		
163,984 47	2,853 47	9,486 81	$8,919 47
494,992 93	181,178 39	22,599 16	4,200 00
115,094 73	-	16,985 00	
138,323 67	93,885 33	8,971 56	
126,795 33	4,200 00		
1,439,586 01	783,825 34		
953,008 09	32,754 62	11,813 00	
762,851 87	110,320 81		
289,608 13			
1,002,788 04	14,800 00	12,000 00	
443,946 51	15,308 96		
256,079 60	87,600 15	-	210,000 00
378,307 27	159,205 33	39,030 00	
486,432 11	57,133 91	32,600 04	37,700 00
364,811 39	86,700 15	11,100 00	
140,256 63	23,735 49	2,139 31	26,190 00
866,591 47			
842,186 49			
3,820,523 05	212,315 48		
3,755,922 75	196,500 00	110,789 28	15,000 00
1,185,104 63			
733,408 56	204,260 22		
3,666,808 89	-	1,207,190 37	
2,234,180 97			
3,409,596 00	-	121,182 00	
807,114 55	-	8,975 36	
2,296,696 85	-	51,611 62	
287,597 45	-	110,483 64	
939,660 64	-	-	54,544 41
1,576,541 67	-	791 86	
1,246,270 02	-	35,571 27	
441,952 00	-	9,839 00	25,820 00
397,852 66	-	24,308 97	140 00
272,603 27	22,650 00	722 70	
6,628,950 28	481,207 89	108,328 99	534,210 35
452,854 86	-	1,151 26	
1,247,524 99	378,321 13	5,352 04	
301,910 34	-	6,385 98	81,335 17
954,086 31	132,754 33	9,674 04	198,991 43
2,254,194 76	407,864 78	162,315 56	759,473 72
1,125,577 65	187,825 15	12,383 03	16,800 00
5,689,162 26	872,940 67	1,202,865 84	368,181 56
1,804,455 34	360,749 77	63,097 58	4,900 00
253,505 03	-	135,500 00	
2,381,339 53	311,405 80	309,499 17	

STATEMENT U

STATES.	Names and location of banks.	Date of return.
MAINE	Maine Bank, at Portland	Aug. 12
	Bank of Cumberland, Portland	14
	Granite Bank, Augusta	July 15
	People's Bank, Bangor	Aug. 15
	York Bank, Saco	12
	Mercantile Bank, Bangor	15
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Commercial Bank, Portsmouth	14
	Merrimack County Bank, Concord	15
	Portsmouth Bank, Portsmouth	12
	New Hampshire Bank, Portsmouth	19
	Piscataqua Bank, Portsmouth	14
	Mechanics' Bank, Concord	15
VERMONT	Bank of Burlington	17
	Bank of Windsor	1
MASSACHUSETTS	Merchants' Bank, Boston	15
	Hancock Bank, Boston	July 15
	Fulton Bank, Boston	May 1
	Franklin Bank, Boston	June 15
	Commonwealth Bank, Boston	Aug. 16
	Phœnix Bank, Charlestown	July 31
CONNECTICUT	Mechanics' Bank, New Haven	Aug. 14
	Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, Hartford	20
	Quinebaug Bank, Norwich	15
RHODE ISLAND	Arcade Bank, Providence	15
	Rhode Island Union Bank, Newport	12
NEW YORK	Lafayette Bank, New York	8
	Seventh Ward Bank, New York	July 24
	Manhattan Company, New York	Aug. 16
	Bank of America, New York	14
	Leather Manufacturers' Bank, New York	July 31
	Mechanics and Farmers' Bank, Albany	Aug. 15
	Mechanics' Bank, New York	15
	Phœnix Bank, New York	16
	Merchants' Bank, New York	11
	Tradesmen's Bank, New York	July 31
	Union Bank, New York	Aug. 19
	Brooklyn Bank, Brooklyn	15
	Bank of Troy, Troy	15
	Merchants' Exchange Bank, New York	1
	National Bank, New York	15
NEW JERSEY	Trenton Banking Company, Trenton	15
	State Bank, at Newark	17
	State Bank, at Elizabethtown	July 31
PENNSYLVANIA	Girard Bank, at Philadelphia	29
	Moyamensing Bank, Philadelphia	Aug. 9
	Merchants and Manufacturers' Bank, Pittsburg	9
DELAWARE	Bank of Delaware, Wilmington	July 1
MARYLAND	Franklin Bank of Baltimore	Aug. 14
	Union Bank of Maryland, Baltimore	21
DISTR'T OF COLUMBIA	Bank of the Metropolis, Washington	15
VIRGINIA	Bank of Virginia and branches	15
	Farmers' Bank of Virginia, Richmond	17
	Branch of ditto, at Winchester	July 15
NORTH CAROLINA	Bank of the State, at Raleigh	22

—Continued.

Real estate.	Other investments.	Expenses.	Balances due from banks.	Notes of other banks on hand.
–	–	$918 32	$33,807 69	$8,889 00
–	–	945 28	4,129 26	24,488 35
$5,882 25	–	–	28,094 53	36,669 00
–	–	597 56	5,698 69	2,063 00
4,427 62	$147 48	255 35	31,118 03	85 00
12,000 00	–	585 08	46,244 41	1,790 00
–	–	3,530 91	101,690 68	16,618 45
4,671 65	–	866 15	55,087 61	4,911 00
5,616 93	–	–	38,749 85	2,705 23
8,979 12	–	37 66	14,413 66	6,835 00
–	–	415 33	38,903 26	5,303 39
1,465 98	10 56	30 50	37,802 76	3,357 00
500 00	–	1,005 83	48,975 20	5,353 28
4,000 00	–	–	17,765 12	5,020 00
110,000 00	–	5,091 91	506,653 46	256,589 00
–	–	2,075 00	54,289 65	200,491 00
–	–	3,593 88	39,649 41	172,726 00
23,873 86	–	89 32	42,570 64	2,250 88
–	–	9,273 00	238,000 00	280,090 23
5,000 00	–	2,425 83	21,145 36	10,387 00
8,625 17	47,578 21	–	15,903 59	8,383 00
14,769 41	13,959 84	1,920 94	43,987 09	16,780 00
12,937 17	3,107 47	805 98	25,969 04	4,281 11
–	–	188 06	50,156 29	9,470 00
18,798 66	–	4 64	23,907 48	1,718 00
8,700 00	5,416 67	2,799 27	65,416 62	35,735 41
6,105 00	18,227 10	6,625 75	170,622 31	38,910 84
390,534 48	417,270 46	–	975,836 45	438,843 17
113,467 19	2,696,185 71	4,544 91	1,264,143 19	343,532 89
–	16,961 54	–	447,445 84	271,296 19
20,000 00	303,709 13	622 85	161,309 63	51,798 00
71,569 90	54,727 54	24,422 28	952,613 00	342,063 00
63,542 45	84,340 08	6,149 06	1,845,521 14	370,700 25
44,207 00	35,479 00	5,226 00	2,699,870 00	846,179 00
24,000 00	11,000 00	497 67	97,434 80	39,580 50
32,106 10	29,347 22	6,081 78	508,337 31	399,769 75
11,265 10	4,175 00	5,570 74	–	21,452 70
12,000 00	13,200 00	300 15	45,143 86	47,572 30
20,376 18	19,941 78	1,428 02	378,202 12	454,520 35
29,637 67	20,634 06	5,456 35	677,034 22	159,938 68
5,141 00	–	–	32,221 00	31,918 00
10,075 67	–	1,254 01	60,493 05	57,491 32
14,776 00	–	1,494 23	24,543 99	6,220 00
–	676,654 79	7,425 36	1,138,620 48	264,914 14
16,172 00	–	3,131 82	50,251 16	39,085 00
–	–	4,708 72	565,615 61	192,124 00
27,723 64	–	351 00	27,606 88	7,326 19
42,874 93	6,665 42	7,281 60	114,225 40	160,636 96
152,366 95	27,850 12	2,856 49	400,699 05	281,398 89
27,028 84	3,170 17	659 05	179,599 00	172,569 57
303,565 25	399,710 69	9,780 85	687,898 70	134,020 06
91,330 81	236,449 82	1,520 07	26,206 46	99,486 73
22,490 18	–	–	63,503 15	15,733 15
35,311 13	–	3,951 78	308,770 48	78,507 00

STATEMENT U

STATES.	Names and location of banks.	Date of return.
MAINE	Maine Bank, at Portland	Aug. 12
	Bank of Cumberland, Portland	14
	Granite Bank, Augusta	July 15
	People's Bank, Bangor	Aug. 15
	York Bank, Saco	12
	Mercantile Bank, Bangor	15
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Commercial Bank, Portsmouth	14
	Merrimack County Bank, Concord	15
	Portsmouth Bank, Portsmouth	12
	New Hampshire Bank, Portsmouth	19
	Piscataqua Bank, Portsmouth	14
	Mechanics' Bank, Concord	15
VERMONT	Bank of Burlington	17
	Bank of Windsor	1
MASSACHUSETTS	Merchants' Bank, Boston	15
	Hancock Bank, Boston	July 15
	Fulton Bank, Boston	May 1
	Franklin Bank, Boston	June 15
	Commonwealth Bank, Boston	Aug. 16
	Phœnix Bank, Charlestown	July 31
CONNECTICUT	Mechanics' Bank, New Haven	Aug. 14
	Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, Hartford	20
	Quinebaug Bank, Norwich	15
RHODE ISLAND	Arcade Bank, Providence,	15
	Rhode Island Union Bank, Newport	12
NEW YORK	Lafayette Bank, New York	8
	Seventh Ward Bank, New York	July 24
	Manhattan Company, New York	Aug. 16
	Bank of America, New York	14
	Leather Manufacturers' Bank, New York	July 31
	Mechanics and Farmers' Bank, Albany	Aug. 15
	Mechanics' Bank, New York	15
	Phœnix Bank, New York	16
	Merchants' Bank, New York	11
	Tradesmen's Bank, New York	July 31
	Union Bank, New York	Aug. 19
	Brooklyn Bank, Brooklyn	15
	Bank of Troy, Troy	15
	Merchants' Exchange Bank, New York	1
	National Bank, New York	15
NEW JERSEY	Trenton Banking Company, Trenton	15
	State Bank, at Newark	17
	State Bank, at Elizabethtown	July 31
PENNSYLVANIA	Girard Bank, at Philadelphia	29
	Moyamensing Bank, Philadelphia	Aug. 9
	Merchants and Manufacturers' Bank, Pittsburg	9
DELAWARE	Bank of Delaware, Wilmington	July 1
MARYLAND	Franklin Bank of Baltimore	Aug. 14
	Union Bank of Maryland, Baltimore	21
DISTR'T OF COLUMBIA	Bank of the Metropolis, Washington	15
VIRGINIA	Bank of Virginia and branches	15
	Farmers' Bank of Virginia, Richmond	17
	Branch of ditto, at Winchester	July 15
NORTH CAROLINA	Bank of the State, at Raleigh	22

—Continued.

Specie on hand.	Circulation.	DEPOSITES.		
		Treasurer of the United States.	Public officers.	All other depositors.
$18,476 31	$28,417 00	$54,366 16	$17,163 96	$60,168 46
30,688 33	107,680 00	29,949 15	-	53,279 33
16,091 65	47,600 00	3,420 00	-	69,532 33
12,516 36	11,418 00	20,537 97	-	4,216 11
12,907 12	44,076 00	82 42	-	35,548 13
12,625 29	54,520 00	18,318 08	15,168 68	4,902 42
12,773 48	80,738 00	28,797 81	45,842 73	50,608 29
8,443 26	19,459 00	23,732 00	47,681 63	4,143 34
7,697 97	35,438 00	8,814 50	-	28,299 85
8,012 07	40,658 00	7,848 54	-	26,821 78
32,521 61	118,984 00	22,578 46	-	28,779 28
7,850 82	49,948 00	22,275 00	-	9,916 26
22,291 95	92,225 00	85 49	36,760 16	21,597 62
12,970 09	46,773 00	503 15	28,606 13	1,558 09
163,078 11	211,272 00	26,820 75	45,857 45	162,434 16
14,362 50	131,752 00	4,884 49	71,090 65	362,126 81
60,052 25	118,489 00	172,155 68	-	223,730 80
38,053 76	102,871 50	54,000 00	-	71,652 96
40,172 98	203,965 00	24,920 98	100,985 65	483,053 50
8,099 62	83,164 00	-	11,612 93	93,199 13
35,170 40	62,345 00	21,855 07	3,444 00	58,652 38
29,450 87	42,802 00	-	108,895 18	58,293 97
8,003 68	55,570 00	12,784 11	-	43,679 55
40,295 71	42,980 00	1,616 25	43,942 41	43,858 75
13,227 82	24,144 00	3,816 81	-	20,571 14
42,919 44	109,480 00	49,000 00	40,000 00	142,999 37
77,569 23	66,765 00	35,508 05	-	235,504 56
209,370 71	426,665 92	239,127 39	131,011 84	2,409,511 72
613,931 68	425,419 00	461,377 16	240,434 02	1,203,545 88
78,628 07	139,265 00	72,089 29	-	560,639 34
70,979 07	164,683 00	21,310 28	34,871 84	224,559 69
43,209 00	417,177 00	314,861 42	-	1,796,238 33
151,890 20	382,537 23	8,438 08	-	828,249 10
42,616 00	753,987 00	64,566 00	1,773 00	1,361,276 00
33,214 58	40,388 00	36,987 05	-	302,745 04
124,705 80	443,052 38	52,750 93	-	880,705 32
4,920 10	22,256 00	94,616 35	3,003 18	84,742 16
18,264 20	87,184 11	40 00	33,775 51	85,306 88
54,612 73	171,558 00	28,528 21	-	487,571 44
76,933 37	285,555 00	22,734 12	6,000 00	775,136 59
37,910 00	124,355 00	29,756 00	41,761 00	49,050 00
44,854 79	38,595 00	55,750 42	7,745 94	50,822 78
18,651 40	36,566 00	25,000 00	-	42,970 28
230,714 36	777,474 69	319,183 75	659,841 89	441,038 87
59,622 91	92,930 00	5,521 57	80,712 56	105,121 24
177,564 90	477,400 00	-	145,708 25	433,743 92
26,111 88	141,736 50	34,815 50	-	92,492 98
63,428 20	250,947 00	97,092 03	29,597 65	320,617 20
75,708 75	237,640 00	219,283 06	79,261 23	1,241,035 70
44,418 49	364,920 26	2,132 96	481,599 28	152,062 64
426,429 76	2,812,088 31	395,066 64	162,246 82	1,393,541 06
155,198 45	516,711 00	148,467 35	-	433,628 85
15,157 16	225,270 00	7,386 88	6,918 00	13,181 04
509,477 63	1,291,550 00	168,548 12	25,316 82	585,210 53

STATEMENT U

STATES.	Names and location of banks.	Date of return.
MAINE	Maine Bank, at Portland	Aug. 12
	Bank of Cumberland, Portland	14
	Granite Bank, Augusta	July 15
	People's Bank, Bangor	Aug. 15
	York Bank, Saco	12
	Mercantile Bank, Bangor	15
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Commercial Bank, Portsmouth	14
	Merrimack County Bank, Concord	15
	Portsmouth Bank, Portsmouth	12
	New Hampshire Bank, Portsmouth	19
	Piscataqua Bank, Portsmouth	14
	Mechanics' Bank, Concord	15
VERMONT	Bank of Burlington	17
	Bank of Windsor	1
MASSACHUSETTS	Merchants' Bank, Boston	15
	Hancock Bank, Boston	July 15
	Fulton Bank, Boston	May 1
	Franklin Bank, Boston	June 15
	Commonwealth Bank, Boston	Aug. 16
	Phœnix Bank, Charlestown	July 31
CONNECTICUT	Mechanics' Bank, New Haven	Aug. 14
	Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, Hartford	20
	Quinebaug Bank, Norwich	15
RHODE ISLAND	Arcade Bank, Providence	15
	Rhode Island Union Bank, Newport	12
NEW YORK	Lafayette Bank, New York	8
	Seventh Ward Bank, New York	July 24
	Manhattan Company, New York	Aug. 16
	Bank of America, New York	14
	Leather Manufacturers' Bank, New York	July 31
	Mechanics and Farmers' Bank, Albany	Aug. 15
	Mechanics' Bank, New York	15
	Phœnix Bank, New York	16
	Merchants' Bank, New York	11
	Tradesmen's Bank, New York	July 31
	Union Bank, New York	Aug. 19
	Brooklyn Bank, Brooklyn	15
	Bank of Troy, Troy	15
	Merchants' Exchange Bank, New York	1
	National Bank, New York	15
NEW JERSEY	Trenton Banking Company, Trenton	15
	State Bank, at Newark	17
	State Bank, at Elizabethtown	July 31
PENNSYLVANIA	Girard Bank, at Philadelphia	29
	Moyamensing Bank, Philadelphia	Aug. 9
	Merchants and Manufacturers' Bank, Pittsburg	9
DELAWARE	Bank of Delaware, Wilmington	July 1
MARYLAND	Franklin Bank of Baltimore	Aug. 14
	Union Bank of Maryland, Baltimore	21
DIST'RT OF COLUMBIA	Bank of the Metropolis, Washington	15
VIRGINIA	Bank of Virginia and branches	15
	Farmers' Bank of Virginia	17
	Branch of ditto, at Winchester	July 15
NORTH CAROLINA	Bank of the State, at Raleigh	22

—Continued.

Balances due to banks.	Other liabilities.	Capital stock.	Contingent fund.	Profit and loss, discount and interest.
$7,722 75	-	$305,000 00	-	$16,284 30
2,506 00	$35,653 62	250,000 00	-	8,557 51
6 37	-	100,000 00	-	1,476 95
-	8,979 56	100,000 00	-	4,468 08
-	-	100,000 00	-	6,709 96
5,446 11	-	100,000 00	-	2,550 33
119 96	9,620 00	150,000 00	$20,000 00	13,928 88
-	-	100,000 00	-	13,930 94
-	-	100,000 00	3,056 84	911 92
-	-	147,500 00	-	695 41
8,371 67	270,165 84	300,000 00	25,214 93	6,019 89
-	-	100,000 00	-	458 09
-	-	150,000 00	6,000 00	12,538 55
-	-	80,000 00	-	13,310 17
1,102,918 93	-	1,500,000 00	151,028 25	64,492 29
168,413 10	-	500,000 00	14,500 00	16,026 81
131,054 86	-	500,000 00	1,385 71	2,378 17
17,252 87	-	150,000 00	367 20	302 06
265,000 00	-	500,000 00	10,270 83	8,928 29
-	-	300,000 00	-	18,337 22
34,167 83	-	473,050 00	13,554 35	2,271 49
4,428 16	-	465,100 00	5,625 00	12,266 44
12,758 28	35,000 00	500,000 00	-	9,178 57
23,131 42	-	400,000 00	-	7,192 77
806 31	-	200,000 00	-	639 77
66,039 01	73,750 00	500,000 00	-	46,310 50
133,671 64	67,372 02	500,000 00	-	121,425 45
670,554 11	520,979 05	2,050,000 00	-	16,843 77
969,563 15	2,398,876 10	3,001,200 00	-	413,602 29
440,588 75	90,311 10	600,000 00	-	96,542 79
288,390 70	179,576 18	442,000 00	-	190,695 77
1,139,451 00	13,629 69	2,000,000 00	-	681,246 54
1,564,759 29	144,932 72	1,500,000 00	293,960 35	33,447 38
3,013,623 00	103,125 00	1,490,000 00	375,399 00	40,606 00
110,315 53	-	400,000 00	-	131,381 84
775,254 16	75,000 00	1,000,000 00	-	221,893 64
8,687 40	254 57	200,000 00	-	31,905 07
210,557 34	160,000 00	440,000 00	-	113,821 72
894,232 31	41,423 09	750,000 00	-	133,101 06
170,759 24	100,000 00	750,000 00	-	141,290 69
30,715 00	-	210,000 00	-	99,164 00
23,236 58	-	400,000 00	-	20,319 75
20,200 88	-	200,000 00	-	36,924 43
1,617,174 21	859,022 62	5,000,000 00	189,504 96	207,785 65
71,343 41	627 72	250,000 00	-	16,012 51
304,227 10	502,263 13	609,000 00	-	107,869 02
7,869 23	588 90	110,000 00	-	91,247 97
331,168 46	-	624,550 00	17,472 95	19,173 33
601,273 93	1,845 00	1,845,562 50	50,000 00	248,826 65
187,269 00	-	500,000 00	-	82,046 81
393,308 77	1,042,220 17	3,240,000 00	590,387 40	65,696 47
127,861 60	756,358 17	475,000 00	369,771 79	15,596 27
14,656 80	-	237,500 00	-	975 95
158,362 99	-	1,500,000 00	-	209,274 06

STATEMENT U

STATES.	Names and location of banks.	Date of return.
SOUTH CAROLINA -	Planters and Mechanics' Bank of S. C., Charleston	Aug. 11
	Bank of Charleston, Charleston - - -	15
GEORGIA - - -	Bank of Augusta - - - - -	8
	Planters' Bank of the State, Savannah - -	8
ALABAMA - -	Branch of the Bank of the State, Mobile - -	7
MISSISSIPPI - -	Planters' Bank of the State, Natchez - -	3
	Agricultural Bank of the State, Natchez - -	July 31
LOUISIANA. - -	Commercial Bank of, New Orleans - -	29
	Union Bank of Louisiana - - - -	31
TENNESSEE - -	Union Bank of the State and branches - -	Aug. 5
	Planters' Bank of the State and branches -	16
KENTUCKY - -	Bank of Kentucky, Louisville - - -	15
	Savings Institution, Louisville - - -	16
	Northern Bank of Kentucky, Lexington - -	7
	Branch of ditto, Louisville - - - -	14
	Branch of ditto, Paris - - - -	17
	Branch of ditto, Richmond - - -	7
	Branch of ditto, Covington - - -	7
OHIO - - -	Franklin Bank of Columbus - - -	9
	Clinton Bank of Columbus - - -	19
	Franklin Bank of Cincinnati - - -	19
	Commercial Bank of Cincinnati - - -	16
	Agency of ditto, at St. Louis - - -	July 31
	Commercial Bank of Lake Erie, Cleaveland -	Aug. 15
	Bank of Chillicothe - - - -	14
	Bank of Cleaveland - - - -	16
	Bank of Wooster - - - - -	15
INDIANA - - -	State Bank of Indiana - - - -	July 22
ILLINOIS - - -	Bank of the State, at Shawneetown - -	Aug. 5
MICHIGAN - -	Bank of the State, at Detroit - - -	18
	Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Michigan -	15
NEW YORK - -	Dry Dock Company, New York - - -	May 1
DELAWARE - -	Bank of Wilmington & Brandywine, Wilmington	June 15
GEORGIA - - -	Insurance Bank of Columbus - - -	Aug. 17
MISSOURI - - -	*Bank of the State of Missouri - - -	July 7

*New selection.

—Continued.

Loans and discounts.	Bills of exchange.	Suspended debt.	Stocks.
$1,844,461 67	$14,901 31	$172,482 86	$282,350 45
2,680,569 39	666,612 59	343,798 37	2,500 00
1,049,841 88	172,174 88	255,768 29	87,960 00
783,845 41	88,496 02	135,284 92	
2,994,434 16	517,967 28	1,387,313 63	
5,165,435 39	1,086,896 41	2,673,343 14	125,900 00
4,000,776 86	934,417 74	682,700 90	
3,636,746 53	406,876 53	443,599 45	68,300 00
7,643,349 33	905,268 92	1,068,205 29	
3,489,644 53	1,023,679 70	604,010 59	
3,346,083 59	1,245,062 69	20,008 90	
2,113,585 53	694,871 21	28,223 87	1,120,000 00
172,531 72	13,385 73	17,150 00	
1,078,097 07	157,576 45	13,525 00	446,000 00
501,688 68	98,385 19	114,850 72	345,000 00
378,584 76	4,211 16	4,900 00	90,000 00
150,934 58	1,357 37	–	50,000 00
267,002 90	47,315 04	–	75,000 00
634,416 68			
370,667 03			
1,086,222 47	560,410 56	22,035 27	47,000 00
929,315 29	966,048 74	28,477 69	
23,443 37	335,661 48	47,293 87	
659,632 54	116,577 73	15,281 82	
4,278 36	331,531 46	119,146 00	191,082 74
435,144 99	52,750 59	5,775 00	
264,941 00	91,349 46	44,725 65	
2,844,369 57	794,637 06	125,608 50	
243,318 31	15,444 76		
942,273 12	435,565 96	16,946 90	
535,722 66	223,715 65		
1,255,880 61	–	10,588 90	
186,802 17	–	–	47,359 85
249,172 40	15,500 00	117,200 41	
112,902,662 67	17,694,530 28	12,383,046 65	5,324,858 15
535,874 14	14,632 62		

STATEMENT U

STATES.	Names and location of banks.	Date of return.
SOUTH CAROLINA -	Planters and Mechanics' Bank of S. C., Charleston	Aug. 11
	Bank of Charleston, Charleston - - -	15
GEORGIA - - -	Bank of Augusta - - - - -	8
	Planters' Bank of the State, Savannah - -	8
ALABAMA - -	Branch of the Bank of the State, Mobile - -	7
MISSISSIPPI - -	Planters' Bank of the State, Natchez - -	3
	Agricultural Bank of the State, Natchez - -	July 31
LOUISIANA - -	Commercial Bank of, New Orleans - -	29
	Union Bank of Louisiana - - - -	31
TENNESSEE - -	Union Bank of the State and branches - -	Aug. 5
	Planters' Bank of the State and branches -	16
KENTUCKY - -	Bank of Kentucky, Louisville - - -	15
	Savings Institution, Louisville - - -	16
	Northern Bank of Kentucky, Lexington - -	7
	Branch of ditto, Louisville - - -	14
	Branch of ditto, Paris - - - -	17
	Branch of ditto, Richmond - - -	7
	Branch of ditto, Covington - - -	7
OHIO - - -	Franklin Bank of Columbus - - -	9
	Clinton Bank of Columbus - - -	19
	Franklin Bank of Cincinnati - - -	19
	Commercial Bank of Cincinnati - - -	16
	Agency of ditto, at St. Louis - - -	July 31
	Commercial Bank of Lake Erie, Cleaveland -	Aug. 15
	Bank of Chillicothe - - - -	14
	Bank of Cleaveland - - - -	16
	Bank of Wooster - - - - -	15
INDIANA - - -	State Bank of Indiana - - - -	July 22
ILLINOIS - - -	Bank of the State, at Shawneetown - -	Aug. 5
MICHIGAN - -	Bank of the State, at Detroit - - -	18
	Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Michigan -	15
NEW YORK - -	Dry Dock Company, New York - - -	May 1
DELAWARE - -	Bank of Wilmington & Brandywine, Wilmington	June 15
GEORGIA - - -	Insurance Bank of Columbus - - -	Aug. 17
MISSOURI - - -	*Bank of the State of Missouri - - -	July 7

* New selection.

—Continued.

Real estate.	Other investments.	Expenses.	Balances due from banks.	Notes of other banks on hand.
$20,000 00	$26,205 65	$1,056 75	$118,584 25	$68,763 00
30,000 00	75,608 23	1,674 75	472,492 46	57,483 00
38,000 00	32,330 37	4,583 57	168,745 81	214,125 50
11,000 00	58,268 44	2,692 07	182,831 61	136,820 00
80,089 25	2,790,626 94	41,013 26	407,599 25	62,777 96
195,038 14	12,948 85	9,205 61	23,613 17	200,856 35
37,493 00	16,659 01	2,273 85	71,101 63	65,424 56
150,689 16	700,121 15	7,591 93	379,310 72	136,553 34
148,845 08	2,108,878 52	26,669 04	781,454 92	246,217 00
42,839 88	-	2,340 22	422,338 06	171,550 25
26,223 20	-	4,812 48	639,619 64	184,065 00
28,341 77	2,203,739 22	1,876 16	852,396 65	232,443 32
10,000 00	-	342 83	44,879 32	47,560 00
50,000 00	369,470 41	1,948 68	266,165 03	139,780 00
16,500 55	3,920 98	1,266 44	166,297 57	59,580 00
2,395 02	95 59	307 62	23,668 59	18,680 00
-	-	328 33	1,244 75	8,090 00
5,000 00	1,542 84	459 61	12,290 56	5,818 00
11,786 91	360 37	1,488 07	131,772 23	32,845 23
8,189 25	-	527 99	11,726 20	47,075 43
37,000 00	75,800 00	732 53	40,465 19	47,046 00
34,426 80	406,954 87	483 92	913,058 93	97,913 00
-	2,335 99	8,490 37	284,930 85	10,500 00
3,928 42	-	2,218 66	165,355 22	41,653 00
13,874 76	-	976 95	215,777 53	71,396 61
984 84	-	61 50	57,693 11	23,246 00
-	53 21	71 49	13,749 14	26,091 00
72,821 87	395,361 29	5,479 55	1,158,388 24	329,095 86
975 00	-	29 25	41,727 93	45,450 00
20,841 25	-	-	292,937 85	9,845 00
14,263 20	3,896 90	635 43	345,636 29	7,356 35
246,026 09	2,399 16	6,261 83	127,631 63	81,661 01
11,620 00	-	1,048 67	7,743 54	3,849 60
13,500 00	2,907 93	3,582 63	344,070 34	159,909 00
3,214,726 48	14,436,405 78	290,628 38	24,683,001 37	9,545,429 33
1,300 00	18,224 65	2,507 82	4,182 38	408,510 00

STATEMENT U

STATES.	Names and location of banks.	Date of return.
SOUTH CAROLINA -	Planters and Mechanics' Bank of S. C., Charleston	Aug. 11
	Bank of Charleston, Charleston - - -	15
GEORGIA - - -	Bank of Augusta - - - - -	8
	Planters' Bank of the State, Savannah - -	8
ALABAMA - -	Branch of the Bank of the State, Mobile - -	7
MISSISSIPPI - -	Planters' Bank of the State, Natchez - -	3
	Agricultural Bank of the State, Natchez - -	July 31
LOUISIANA - -	Commercial Bank of, New Orleans - -	29
	Union Bank of Louisiana - - - -	31
TENNESSEE - -	Union Bank of the State and branches - -	Aug. 5
	Planters' Bank of the State and branches -	16
KENTUCKY - -	Bank of Kentucky, Louisville - - -	15
	Savings Institution, Louisville - - -	16
	Northern Bank of Kentucky, Lexington - -	7
	Branch of ditto, Louisville - - -	14
	Branch of ditto, Paris - - - -	17
	Branch of ditto, Richmond - - -	7
	Branch of ditto, Covington - - -	7
OHIO - - -	Franklin Bank of Columbus - - -	9
	Clinton Bank of Columbus - - -	19
	Franklin Bank of Cincinnati - - -	19
	Commercial Bank of Cincinnati - - -	16
	Agency of ditto, at St. Louis - - -	July 31
	Commercial Bank of Lake Erie, Cleaveland -	Aug. 15
	Bank of Chillicothe - - - - -	14
	Bank of Cleaveland - - - - -	16
	Bank of Wooster - - - - -	15
INDIANA - - -	State Bank of Indiana - - - -	July 22
ILLINOIS - - -	Bank of the State, at Shawneetown - -	Aug. 5
MICHIGAN - -	Bank of the State, at Detroit - - -	18
	Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Michigan -	15
NEW YORK - -	Dry Dock Company - - - - -	May 1
DELAWARE - -	Bank of Wilmington & Brandywine, Wilmington	June 15
GEORGIA - - -	Insurance Bank of Columbus - - -	Aug. 17
MISSOURI - - -	*Bank of the State of Missouri - - -	July 7

*New selection.

—Continued.

Specie on hand.	Circulation.	DEPOSITES.		
		Treasurer of the United States.	Public officers.	All other depositors.
$244,637 21	$731,325 00	$50,404 74	$138,576 59	$308,693 61
241,045 73	1,119,485 00	60,943 23	2,931 50	729,544 79
201,281 08	604,138 96	37,169 52	20,696 83	138,199 02
293,550 59	260,142 00	66,565 17	134,224 90	202,726 59
138,610 55	1,855,230 00	950,956 26	174,944 45	1,560,826 67
303,928 46	1,521,761 88	895,308 67	28,235 71	535,564 56
68,499 96	1,009,816 00	853,075 04	-	375,428 95
118,305 06	402,339 81	863,956 98	242,176 81	462,974 39
80,577 40	1,305,470 00	593,841 05	223,590 29	1,067,707 02
199,104 39	1,307,481 48	242,997 61	86,937 15	997,417 00
224,125 31	1,323,685 33	136,320 87	389,952 45	1,202,022 06
298,578 67	694,735 00	601,112 17	-	270,400 32
56,488 36	none.	85,463 34	10,132 60	129,324 06
292,500 73	616,500 00	51,439 82	39,893 52	273,674 22
303,944 12	220,840 00	105,231 45	-	33,138 72
122,707 91	153,470 00	-	-	28,163 67
96,167 76	100,795 00	-	-	9,104 37
94,622 79	135,730 00	-	-	19,416 86
255,379 16	291,029 81	52,631 83	58,985 27	112,709 39
100,181 44	119,895 00	419 73	-	75,933 63
180,494 11	276,751 00	403,103 18	20,610 21	169,481 48
564,553 04	969,378 00	347,961 54	60,480 60	261,412 99
7,151 24	none.	589,510 31	20,136 61	
100,790 57	328,017 00	60,682 75	-	149,276 72
148,894 42	293,200 08	198,902 00	-	54,672 77
60,568 98	244,719 00	21,103 42	23,257 45	76,153 19
53,874 02	170,442 00	44,471 05	-	70,746 00
999,894 34	2,476,076 00	901,531 75	8,916 64	530,411 54
158,610 34	64,846 00	39,795 90	-	121,238 60
84,847 07	330,463 00	621,993 22	35,579 41	205,052 01
82,672 42	169,911 00	376,057 62	64,361 49	137,598 39
29,586 08	268,699 80	80,000 00	-	409,221 75
29,999 71	62,273 50	36,000 00	826 11	43,303 49
166,185 71	70,513 00	5,035 00	-	53,233 59
10,580,413 95	32,626,004 55	12,944,666 70	4,574,076 98	29,492,113 25
293,308 72	-	-	386 36	411,289 87

STATEMENT U

STATES.	Names and location of banks.	Date of return.
SOUTH CAROLINA -	Planters and Mechanics' Bank of S. C., Charleston	Aug. 11
	Bank of Charleston, Charleston - - -	15
GEORGIA - - -	Bank of Augusta - - - - -	8
	Planters' Bank of the State, Savannah - -	8
ALABAMA - -	Branch of the Bank of the State, Mobile - -	7
MISSISSIPPI - -	Planters' Bank of the State, Natchez - -	3
	Agricultural Bank of the State, Natchez - -	July 31
LOUISIANA - -	Commercial Bank of, New Orleans - -	29
	Union Bank of Louisiana - - - -	31
TENNESSEE - -	Union Bank of the State, and branches - -	Aug. 5
	Planters' Bank of the State, and branches -	16
KENTUCKY - -	Bank of Kentucky, Louisville - - -	15
	Savings Institution, Louisville - - -	16
	Northern Bank of Kentucky, Lexington - -	7
	Branch of ditto, Louisville - - -	14
	Branch of ditto, Paris - - - -	17
	Branch of ditto, Richmond - - -	7
	Branch of ditto, Covington - - -	7
OHIO - - -	Franklin Bank of Columbus - - -	9
	Clinton Bank of Columbus - - -	19
	Franklin Bank of Cincinnati - - -	19
	Commercial Bank of Cincinnati - - -	16
	Agency of ditto, at St. Louis - - -	July 31
	Commercial Bank of Lake Erie, Cleaveland -	Aug. 15
	Bank of Chillicothe - - - -	14
	Bank of Cleaveland - - - -	16
	Bank of Wooster - - - - -	15
INDIANA - - -	State Bank of Indiana - - - -	July 22
ILLINOIS - - -	Bank of the State, at Shawneetown - -	Aug. 5
MICHIGAN - -	Bank of the State, at Detroit - - -	18
	Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Michigan -	15
NEW YORK - -	Dry Dock Company - - - -	May 1
DELAWARE - -	Bank of Wilmington & Brandywine, Wilmington	June 15
GEORGIA - - -	Insurance Bank of Columbus - - - -	Aug. 17
MISSOURI - - -	*Bank of the State of Missouri - - - -	July 7

* New selection.

—Continued.

Balances due to banks.	Other liabilities.	Capital stock.	Contingent fund.	Profit and loss, discount and interest.
$341,822 41	-	$1,000,000 00	$203,509 49	$19,111 31
407,463 55	$92,689 83	2,000,000 00	127,899 36	44,827 26
157,552 95	20,906 66	1,200,000 00	-	46,147 44
357,005 25	-	535,400 00	115,794 09	20,931 06
587,146 66	33,494 43	2,300,000 00	577,944 00	379,889 81
619,406 05	898,110 92	4,205,140 00	-	1,091,937 73
830,749 03	380,134 01	2,000,000 00	-	430,144 48
659,225 40	7,624 00	3,000,000 00	-	409,796 48
913,858 67	7,930 98	7,000,000 00	820,000 00	1,077,067 49
365,181 71	18,634 36	2,547,739 00	124,894 03	264,225 28
107,876 58	59,574 41	2,000,000 00	393,127 49	77,441 62
278,638 76	1,004,174 44	4,586,070 76	86,416 60	52,508 35
12,673 71	-	104,188 00	15,628 00	4,928 25
154,376 06	553,142 69	1,035,585 00	51,000 00	39,452 06
572,595 18	-	675,000 00	-	4,628 90
625 10	60,254 31	400,000 00	-	3,037 57
56 50	16,986 96	180,000 00	-	1,179 96
3,932 17	73,365 72	275,000 00	-	1,606 99
24,905 29	-	481,560 00	-	36,227 06
9,598 45	-	300,000 00	27,825 28	4,695 25
76,027 49	9,138 10	1,000,000 00	125,225 93	16,868 74
752,168 96	286,044 78	1,000,000 00	10,000 00	253,785 41
96,052 20	-	none.	-	14,108 05
2,144 12	-	500,000 00	-	58,317 36
6,482 30	-	500,000 00	8,537 69	27,463 99
9,267 16	-	227,545 00	1,913 68	32,266 11
2,226 95	-	195,864 00	7,341 00	3,763 97
640,270 99	-	1,845,000 00	250,666 54	72,782 82
12,580 29	-	257,550 00	-	9,544 60
58,014 99	50,000 00	450,000 00	13,155 87	38,997 95
49,000 71	-	400,000 00	10,000 00	6,969 69
511,922 97	-	420,000 00	-	70,190 79
10,219 91	-	120,000 00	9,355 72	6,444 81
316,610 10	2,567 42	600,000 00	-	24,069 31
25,083,891 46	11,066,348 27	81,628,104 26	5,117,734 33	8,522,763 24
240,251 99	342,249 89	280,252 62	-	4,110 80

V.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
July 3, 1837.

SIR: Replies having in most cases been received to my circular, addressed in May last to the cashiers of those deposite banks which had suspended specie payments, I now propose to submit a few remarks to your consideration, growing out of those replies, and out of events which have since transpired in connexion with your relations to the Treasury Department.

1. It affords me much gratification to find, so far as regards the inquiry concerning payment and security, a great willingness expressed to make the United States amply safe for the eventual payment of all that is due, and a strong conviction entertained by the banks that no loss will be ultimately sustained by the Government. But, whenever reasonable doubts on this subject have arisen with the department, steps have been taken to procure additional security, or to withdraw the public funds more rapidly, if possible, than was otherwise intended. And a part of the object of this communication is to apprize you that such will be the course which a sense of duty must require me to continue to pursue, in regard to any bank whose condition may appear doubtful, while the relation of debtor and creditor exists between it and the Treasury.

2. Another portion of that circular communicated information concerning the lenient mode which, under the severe losses experienced by many of the banks from mercantile failures, and under the embarrassments to others, caused by panic and want of confidence, was contemplated to be adopted in recalling the public funds. That mode was by such moderate drafts and transfers as the public necessities should from time to time demand; and an earnest request having been made for a satisfactory compliance with it on the part of the banks, assurances have generally been given of a readiness to answer those calls with promptitude, and in an acceptable manner. But though it is gratifying to add, that in most cases these assurances have since been fulfilled, and something like three millions of dollars of public money have been paid over by the discontinued banks since the 12th of May last, and, in a few instances, all which was on hand; and though about nine millions more are expected to be paid early in July, yet, in some cases, proper efforts and sacrifices do not appear to have been made to discharge their important obligations to the Treasury. In such cases, and especially where the neglect produced serious inconvenience to our fiscal operations, or injury to the public credit, the department has felt compelled, by its responsibility to the Government, to take preparatory measures suitable to obtain indemnity for the past, and enforce those obligations in future. It will feel obliged to adopt such measures hereafter in all similar instances; and though its moderation and lenity have been, and will be, as great as is supposed to be justifiable, they must not be misconstrued into indifference or forgetfulness of what is due as well *from* the banks as *to* the public creditors and the United States.

The location of several of the banks, and the small amount of public money in their possession, will exempt them from many calls at present, and enable them easily to meet such as are made. But the situation of others will, under all just forbearance, render the calls upon them more frequent and imperative, and will require, as it is hoped they will receive, a corres-

pondent exertion to answer them. Such exertion, it is believed, will in the end be far better for all concerned, though accompanied by some temporary sacrifices, than to suffer loss of character, by incurring the imputation of a continued violation of essential duties, and by exposing the Treasury to embarrassment, and the public creditors and officers to severe injury.

The department cannot recognise the right of any former depository to be exempted from paying specie to the public creditor, if insisted on by him; it being due, in both honor and good faith, as well to him as to the Treasury. It is true, that the difficulty of procuring it when wanted has been somewhat enhanced, and this, at the time when demands for it are increased, and the ability of some of the banks is weakened by the failures of some of their customers. But these are obstacles which are by no means insuperable, and which, when occurring, it is the duty, and it is hoped will be the desire, of every bank to make efforts to remove, at any reasonable expense and trouble.

3. The returns of the condition of the selected banks, which were requested to be continued, have generally been made with promptitude and regularity. But while it is very satisfactory to see, in most cases, a reduction in discounts and circulation, and which course is the most efficient to cure one of the existing evils in banking, and to enable the institutions which have suspended specie payments to resume them at an early day, and with much greater safety, it is regretted that, in a few instances, this course has not been adopted. But whenever departed from in such a crisis, the error has tended, and must tend hereafter, to impair the confidence of the department in the sound management of the institution, and to justify such steps as may lead to a more speedy withdrawal of the public money, or to the procurement of increased security.

4. Such a departure, also, is likely to delay the resumption of specie payments, concerning which the views of the former deposite banks were requested in that circular, and have generally been since presented. Without claiming the right to interfere on this subject beyond the deep solicitude and interest felt by the Treasury Department concerning the condition and conduct of all its debtors, and beyond its duty vigilantly to examine into those points when indulgences are sought or granted, the inquiries before mentioned were made on these accounts alone. It has been a matter of regret to find, in most of the explanations on the subject of suspending as well as resuming specie payments, that the action of one bank has been made to depend so exclusively on that of others. The location, losses, liabilities, and means of the banks, were, and still are, very different among themselves, as well as in different quarters of the country. In illustration of this remark, it may be mentioned, that several of them, as in the eastern States in 1814, have actually continued to pay specie, and many others appear to have had ample ability to do it, if more courage, energy, and independence had fortunately been united with their great available means. Since the panic has in some degree subsided, and the opportunity has been enjoyed for lessening balances, discounts, and circulation, and when so much more can be done, in this respect, without causing distress, in consequence of the diminished business of the community, and the smaller demand for money, it is to be lamented that a more general effort has not been made to resume specie payments at the earliest day practicable and safe. It is true, that a few banks very commendably have already resumed, and are in the successful discharge of their plain legal obligations, though

on a reduced scale in business and profits; and that others are efficiently attempting to place themselves in a similar position. But, from the replies to my inquiries, the inclination seems to be too prevalent for the banks in one city, county, State, or large region of country, to postpone the measure till all others in the Union are ready and willing to unite. Their positions, in various respects, are essentially unlike, though in general very strong. The condition of the former deposite banks, as a whole, is believed to be stronger now as to specie compared with circulation, or immediate means to meet immediate liabilities, so as readily to sustain specie payments under ordinary circumstances, than has been the condition of all the banks in the United States at any former period for the last quarter of a century. Their specie, on an average, is about one to three of their circulation, and their immediate means nearly one to two and a half of their immediate liabilities. But, in some large sections of country, the specie is in a ratio quite 30 per cent. greater, while in others it is less. The want of confidence in some places, and the effects of losses in others, and which constitute the only other principal differences in the ability, at different periods, to sustain such payments, have not extended in the same degree to all places, and have already diminished much more in some of them than in others.

It is therefore earnestly hoped that, by prudent and persevering efforts, a resumption of specie payments can be effected at no very remote day, and successfully maintained by many of those institutions indebted to the Treasury. So far as this department has power to encourage such efforts, it has done, and cheerfully will do it, while the existing laws remain unrepealed, by giving a decided preference for holding all kinds of public deposites to such banks as pay specie. But, beyond that, Congress and the States alone can lawfully extend other assistance.

You will more readily excuse my anxiety on this topic, when, besides the reasons before stated, you are assured of the strong conviction entertained by this department that the resumption of specie payments, as soon as it can be accomplished by any reasonable exertions or sacrifices, would not only increase the facilities of our fiscal operations, and much promote the convenience of the public creditors, but tend to remove many reproaches from the banking institutions themselves, and to preserve a strong sense of moral obligation to discharge faithfully, so far as able, every duty imposed by law.

Respectfully, yours,
LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

To the CASHIER *of*

25th CONGRESS,
1st Session.

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI,

PRAYING

The establishment of a number of post routes.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1837.
Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

The memorial of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

That, by a late organization into counties of that portion of our State lately ceded by the Chickasaw tribe of Indians to the United States, and a rapid settlement of those counties, the want of mail facilities has produced great and insufferable inconveniences to the citizens, which will be partially obviated by the laws passed at the last session of Congress; but the counties have, since that time, been created, and seats of justice permanently located in most of them. Some attention to the laws providing for mail routes appears to your memorialists to be obvious. Your memorialists would, therefore, respectfully recommend the establishment by law of the following routes, viz: To provide for the mail to be carried twice a week from Jackson, Mississippi, to Memphis, Tennessee, via Canton, Boles' Ferry on the Big Black river, Franklin, Lexington, Carrolton, Grenada, Belmont, and Jefferson, to Memphis; from Carrolton, via Grenada, Coffeeville, Oxford, Wyatt, Chulahoma, and Holly Springs, to La Grange, Tennessee; from Jackson, Mississippi, via Madisonville, Doak's Old Stand, Kosciusko, Greensborough, Houston, Pontitoc, and Ripley, to Bolivar, Tennessee; a cross mail from Fulton, in Itawamba county, via Pontitoc, Ponola, or Belmont, to Tunica court-house, on the bank of the Mississippi river. The above routes would open, through different parts of the State, direct mail routes from Jackson, the seat of Government of said State, to important points in the State of Tennessee. Those, together with the cross mail routes proposed, would afford ample mail facilities to the country lately ceded in the Chickasaw purchase, as well as many other parts of our State.

Your memorialists would recommend the adoption of the routes herein

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described, and the timely repeal of all laws, and discontinuance of all routes that conflict therewith.

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and Representatives be requested, to use their best exertions to effect the object of the foregoing memorial.

Resolved, That the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to forward a copy of the above memorial and resolution to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

WM. VANNERSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A. G. McNUTT,
President of the Senate.

Approved May 12th, 1837:

CHARLES LYNCH.

I do hereby certify that this memorial is a true copy of the original memorial as is now on file in my office.

[L. S.] Given under my hand and the great seal of state, at Jackson, the 9th day of August, 1837.

BARRY W. BENSON,
Secretary of State.

25th Congress,
1st Session.

MEMORIAL

CONVENTION OF A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF PENNSYLVANIA,

Praying Congress to construct a Macadamized road from the National road to Erie.

September 7, 1837.
Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The undersigned, officers of a convention assembled at Erie, in Pennsylvania, would, in behalf of the convention, respectfully memorialize your honorable bodies.

They represent the counties of Allegany, Butler, Mercer, Warren, Crawford, and Erie; and have convened for the purpose of petitioning Congress to construct a Macadamized road from some suitable point upon the National road to the harbor at Erie.

The subject to which the convention would honestly direct your attention, is one that for a long time has been agitated in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Nor is it new in Congress. The importance, if not the absolute necessity, of such a road, terminating at some point upon the great chain of our northern lakes, long since arrested the attention of the nation.

Local interests and sectional jealousies have thus far succeeded in delaying the definitive action of Congress upon the subject.

Your memorialists trust that your honorable bodies, at the present session, will take the matter into consideration, and make a prompt and enlightened decision upon it.

It is a great work, and, in all respects, worthy of this nation.

It will lead from the National road to a northern seaport, a distance of about one hundred and sixty miles, through a country much of the way abounding in proper materials, and of easy grade.

In peace, it is said, we should prepare for war. Then, at least, a nation should put herself in the proper attitude for defence.

Upon this ground your memorialists would urge upon you the early construction of the above designated road.

This country, upon the north, is divided from a foreign Government by the great chain of Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Superior.

These inland seas are not the exclusive property of our Union; they have been, and again may be, the scene of naval engagements; upon them vessels of almost any tonnage can sail; and by them every facility is given in war to harass our commerce and destroy our property.

That this nation, in time of need, may be enabled to concentrate any force, properly provided and armed, upon its northern frontier, a road, such as your memorialists ask, is required.

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Neither a canal nor rail-way will answer: for commerce and general intercourse they are well adapted, for these can be made to accommodate themselves to the seasons; but to meet the exigencies of war, we must have a road always ready.

In this point of view, your memorialists would strongly urge the immediate action of Congress.

The road prayed for is also needed for commerce, for travel, and to induce the settlement and cultivation of the country.

These, in the opinion of your memorialists, are subjects worthy of your best consideration.

This nation, so wisely and happily united by its Government, by means of our national roads, our State canal and rail-ways, must be perpetual.

The jealousies of the south and north, by intercourse thus afforded, can be converted into an enlightened regard for each, and a unity of feeling and sentiment.

To act in concert, which, as a nation, we are politically bound to do, we must know each other; of this, your memorialists are ambitious.

As reasons for the selection of the route prayed for by your petitioners, they would state that it will pass through Pittsburg, at which place a national arsenal is established; by the State arsenal at Meadville, in Crawford county; and terminating at the harbor of Erie, unequalled for its size, its safety, and ease of access, by any other upon the southern shore of our northern lakes.

Your memorialists would further represent that the Erie harbor is formed, as is well known to many of you, by a peninsula; is four miles in length, and of an average width of about one mile and three quarters. There is a depth of water sufficient for any vessel upon the lakes. For support of this, you are referred to the report of T. S. Brown, civil engineer, which will be found upon the journals of Congress of a late session.

At this harbor Perry's fleet was built, because here only could it be constructed, launched, and prepared for sea with safety.

These are considerations of great weight in the question upon which your memorialists address you: for all must admit that such a road should terminate where vessels will be always safe, not only from the storms, but an assailing foe.

In this respect, the Erie harbor challenges a comparison with any other upon the lakes.

Your memorialists, therefore, urge your honorable bodies to take the subject of their petition into consideration, at the present session, and make such decision as in your wisdom may be deemed best.

ERIE, ERIE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, *August* 16, 1837.

JOSEPH MORRISON, *President.*

T. S. CUNNINGHAM,
RUFUS S. REED,
WM. B. FOSTER,
JOHN DICK,
Vice Presidents.

JAMES POTTS,
ALFRED GILMORE,
WM. M. WATTS,
W. M. STEPHENSON,
Secretaries.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI,

ON THE

Subject of extending the franking privilege.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That so much of the resolutions of the General Assembly of Maryland as recommend the extension of the franking privilege to the Governors of the several States be concurred in.

Resolved, That the extension of the franking privilege to members of the Legislatures is unnecessary, and that so much of said resolutions as recommend such extension be not concurred in.

Resolved, That his excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Governors of the several States, and also to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

A. G. BROWN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives pro tem.
A. G. McNUTT,
President of the Senate.

Approved May 13th, 1837:

CHARLES LYNCH.

Blair & Rives, printers.

25th Congress,
1st Session.

MEMORIAL

OF

LITTLETON DENNIS TEACKLE,

PRESENTING

A plan of a National Bank, and praying that its principles and details may be considered and acted upon by Congress.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1837.

Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The undersigned, a native citizen of the United States, residing in the State of Maryland, in the exercise of a constitutional privilege, with deference approaches your honorable bodies, to present a proposition designed to remove the embarrassing and vexatious circumstances which have arisen from derangements in monetary affairs, and to avoid the recurrence of similar evils, by the interposition of an adequate and ample circulating medium, in connexion with the collection, custody, and distribution of the revenue.

In the construction of a code for these essential purposes, the undersigned has acted in obedience to the following considerations, viz:

1. That the system of this republic embraces not only the constitution and laws of the confederation, but the institutions of its component States; and that the people are paramount to all.

2. That the mere keeping of the public treasures imparts a beneficial privilege.

3. That the credit of its circulation is a virtual capital of great value.

4. That the benefits of each and every other prerogative, whether positive or incidental, properly belong to all the people; and that they cannot be ceded to a part, without derogating from the rights of the whole.

Economists admit that money is the blood of a nation, the spring of its industry, the generator of its enterprise; and its regulation in this empire of free States having been exclusively vested in your honorable bodies, the exercise of that power, to the end that its functions may be equally exerted for the general good, is especially devolved in the pending crisis.

The plan proposed is believed to be founded upon principles substantial in their nature, and entirely consistent with the genius of our Government, as it proposes to diffuse the benefits of a high and valuable prerogative to the whole people, and not for the profit of a favored few or privileged order. It is, in fact, substantially, a national bank of deposite and exchange, without the faculty of discounting or circulation, in connexion with a sys-

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tem of State institutions for the keeping and distribution of the federal revenue, under guards and guaranties commensurate with the wealth and credit of the several States respectively; to each of which States it would impart extensive aids, and afford facilities for general accommodation and amelioration. And while such a system would essentially enlarge the specie basis, and adapt the operations of the public institutions to the minor concerns of the country, the national currency would supply the interchanges of commerce, in large transactions, on terms convenient and economical; and although the making of paper a legal tender in private contracts may be interdicted by the constitution, the allowance of such a currency, in all payments to the national Treasury, has been sanctioned by law and usage, in the adoption of a species of currency mainly analogous to the emission proposed, viz: the Treasury notes.

The details and illustrations of the proposition are extended in the annexed paper, (marked A,) which the undersigned submits as a part of this memoir, and prays that it may be so considered.

Apprehensions have been entertained, as the undersigned is aware, that the States could not surmount the opposition of private corporations engaged in banking; and that an attempt to carry into effect a general system, as proposed, would, consequently, be found impracticable. But is not such an apprehension of itself enough to invite the encounter, in order that it may be ascertained whether the sovereignty dwells in the creator, or in the creature corporators?

It will be seen, by the plan, that the assent of any five of the States will suffice to commence the system, and it scarcely can be doubted that a larger number, already provided with well-adapted institutions, would promptly accede; and that the action of less favorable regulations, necessarily pre-existing, would conduce to the successive accession of others, until the entire Union should be embraced by the equitable measures in contemplation.

The predominating principles of policy and interest are enough to warrant this conclusion; as the *boon* presented in the liberal distribution of the national currency, and the *benefits* of the collection and disbursement of the public moneys, operating as inducements on the one hand, whilst the justifiable withholding of that *boon* and those *benefits*, as well as the drains of abstractions by drafts to the public creditors, on those continuing under the control of private corporations, acting adversely on the other hand, would conduce to the establishment of a fiscal confederation, in harmonious accord with the spirit of our political system, and the just rights of all interests and classes of community.

Actuated by the inducements presented, and the incidental advantages anticipated to flow from the plan proposed, it is humbly conceived that the States would severally provide the needful "coin," and conform, in good faith, to the organic law of your honorable bodies, in all its provisions and requisitions.

The undersigned, therefore, in all humility, submits respectfully his proposition, and prays that its principles and details may be duly considered, and acted upon as in your wisdom may seem meet.

LITTLETON DENNIS TEACKLE, *of Maryland.*

A.

The proposition is intended to establish the monetary system, and to regulate the currency of the United States according to the following bases and principles, to wit:

1. Five commissioners, to be appointed by the President and Senate, to act, in conjunction with other commissioners to be appointed by the States, in a board, to sit at the seat of the General Government.

2. The board to devise and prepare a national currency, in convenient denominations, from twenty to one thousand dollars, to be apportioned among the States in the ratio of their electoral votes, not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars for every Senator and Representative in Congress.

3. Each of the States assenting to the system to receive its contingent of the currency upon the payment of one per centum on the amount required, and contracting to pay in like manner annually thereafter, and providing not less than one-fourth of that amount in the legal coin of the United States as a basis of its operations.

4. Each of the assenting States to appoint one commissioner to the board, and one in addition for every ten of its electoral votes; deducting the number which may have been appointed from such State by the President and Senate.

5. The principal institution of each of the States to have the custody, and provide for the transmission and disbursement of the public moneys, and for exchanges between the States, under such conditions and regulations as the Congress may prescribe.

6. The national currency to be made receivable in all payments to the United States, at each and every of the institutions, and at all their branches or departments, without regard to its place of emission or redemption.

7. The board to have and exercise a visitorial and supervisory control over the institutions of the States in all their ramifications; each to be visited and inspected, by deputation, once in every six months at the least.

8. The assenting States to be severally and distinctly responsible for their contingents of the currency, and for their respective institutions.

9. The commissioners to receive an adequate compensation for their services, and fair allowances for itinerant charges; to appoint and pay their secretary, and other necessary officers and servants; to take security for their good conduct and the due discharge of their proper duties.

10. The secretary to receive the per centage to be paid by the States; to make all needful disbursements, under the direction of the board; and to account to Congress for any balance which may remain.

11. The proceedings of the board to be open to the inspection of Congress, or to any committee thereof; and the right to modify or repeal the act to be reserved, subject to the fulfilment of existing engagements.

12. The board to consider all subjects connected with the currency, in relation to the interests of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, charged upon it, and report thereon to Congress from time to time.

ILLUSTRATION.

States.	Proportion of national currency.	Coin.
Maine - - - -	$1,000,000	$250,000
New Hampshire - - -	700,000	175,000
Massachusetts - - -	1,400,000	350,000
Rhode Island - - -	400,000	100,000
Connecticut - - -	800,000	200,000
Vermont - - - -	700,000	175,000
New York - - - -	4,200,000	1,050,000
New Jersey - - - -	800,000	200,000
Pennsylvania - - -	3,000,000	750,000
Delaware - - - -	300,000	75,000
Maryland - - - -	1,000,000	250,000
Virginia - - - -	2,300,000	575,000
North Carolina - - -	1,500,000	375,000
South Carolina - - -	1,100,000	275,000
Georgia - - - -	1,100,000	275,000
Kentucky - - - -	1,500,000	375,000
Tennessee - - - -	1,500,000	375,000
Ohio - - - - -	2,100,000	525,000
Louisiana - - - -	500,000	125,000
Indiana - - - -	900,000	225,000
Mississippi - - - -	400,000	100,000
Illinois - - - -	500,000	125,000
Alabama - - - -	700,000	175,000
Missouri - - - -	400,000	100,000
Michigan - - - -	300,000	75,000
Arkansas - - - -	300,000	75,000
	29,400,000	7,350,000

To further elucidate the matter, the undersigned, with deference, will submit some brief remarks, in numerical order, with reference to the several points of the proposition:

1. The commissioners, as contemplated, would constitute a financial congress of infinite value; emanating chiefly from the States, they could not be wielded by any department of the Government to advance the views of any party. From such an influence they would, indeed, be free, by the tenure of their office, the nature of their operations, their guarded powers, and prescribed duties, as provided in the organic law to be presented hereafter.

2. It is to be understood that the national currency is not intended for the common purposes of money, but as an auxiliary to the specie basis, and mainly to supply the facilities of commerce, and interchanges in large transactions, in aid of the issues of the public institutions of the several States. And, although the limit for the entire Union is apparently too much con-

tracted, the amount authorized to be issued is greater than the greatest circulation of the late Bank of the United States; and if it should be found insufficient, the demand might be supplied by a further emission of the currency for general circulation.

3. The required payment of one *per centum* by the States is intended only to cover charges; as the currency, being merely a measure of value, could not justly be made a subject of federal revenue. With equal justice might the States be taxed for scales and weights, or quarts and gallons, or other measures of length or capacity. And even that per centage might be reduced, by one-half, after the first year. The requisition of one-fourth in coin is esteemed sufficient; but, being the *minimum*, if found insufficient, the States would, necessarily, increase it to sustain their respective institutions.

4. The smallest State would be entitled to a representative, and the largest to five, subject to the restrictions of the law. And, although the board might appear too numerous, that objection would disappear when it should be considered that a large portion of its members would be employed in visiting and inspecting the institutions, whilst others would be engaged in considering the subjects referred to them by either branch of Congress, besides their regular or ordinary duties.

5. The custody of the federal treasures could not certainly be more safely placed than under the guaranties of the States in their appropriate institutions. And the benefits to arise from the deposites could not be more justly disposed of than by such distribution to the whole people. The transmissions and disbursements could be surely effected, under the direction of the board of currency, by the public institutions of the States, as well as by private corporations or individual officers. The practicability of the operation is proved, in advance, by the ease and safety of our revenue system, in contrast with the frequent embarrassments of such corporations.

6. The national currency would be receivable in all the States, as were the notes of the late Bank of the United States.

7. The mode of exercising a visitorial and supervisory control over the institutions of the States, and their respective branches or departments—so eminently calculated to inspire confidence, and insure a compliance with the required conditions, uniformity of proceeding, and the most beneficial action—is fully and distinctly detailed in the bill.

8. Besides their responsibility for the custody, transmission, and disbursement of the public moneys, the States are required to respond, in their sovereign characters, for the currency, and for its redemption, on demand, in gold or silver, under conventional arrangements and sufficient guaranties.

9. The expenses of the board would be, in truth, but a small advance for a great benefit, and might justly be regarded in the light of seed sown for a rich harvest. The commissioners would properly appoint their necessary officers, and take sufficient security for their good conduct.

10. The secretary would receive the contributions, and, after defraying the expenses, under the direction of the board, would account to Congress for any surplus, which would be considered in the subsequent graduations of the necessary per centage.

11. The board, being entirely a public department, would be open to the inspection of any committee or officer of Congress, and subject to any alteration or modification which experience might suggest.

12. Over and above the regular duties of the board, in the character of a

financial congress, it would be peculiarly adapted to investigate the great interests of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, in their various relations, as connected with the main object of its constitution; and to report thereon, from time to time, as might be required by either branch of the National Legislature.

The project of a law is presented, as the organic code of currency, collection, and distribution, in the words following, to wit:

A BILL to create a national currency, and to provide for the custody, transmission, and disbursement of the moneys of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever any five of the several States, by legislative enactments, shall have assented to the provisions hereinafter contained, and certified their assumption of the obligations therein enjoined upon them to the President of the United States, it shall be the duty of the President to nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate to appoint, five persons to act as commissioners, in conjunction with other commissioners to be appointed by the States, as hereinafter provided, to constitute a board of currency, to sit at the seat of the General Government, and to serve for five years: the seat of the first named of the said persons to be vacated at the end of the first year; of the second, at the end of the second year; of the third, at the end of the third year; of the fourth, at the end of the fourth year; and of the fifth, at the end of the fifth year; so that one of the said commissioners shall be appointed in every year: *Provided*, That any of the said persons may be re-nominated and re-appointed for five years as aforesaid; and, if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, or if the assent of any five of the States shall be received during the recess of the Senate, the President shall have power to fill the same, or to appoint the commissioners, (as the case may be,) by granting commissions to expire at the end of the next session; and the said persons shall be severally subject to suspension by the board, and to removal by the President, for misconduct in office, or neglect of duty, upon the concurrent vote of both Houses of Congress, and not otherwise.

SEC. 2. That each of the States, having assented and certified as aforesaid, shall be entitled to appoint one person as a commissioner to the board of currency, and one in addition for every ten of its electoral votes, deducting the number which may have been appointed from such State on behalf of the United States, to serve for five years as aforesaid: the seat of the first named of the said persons, as they shall have been received from the States, to be vacated at the end of the first year; of the second, at the end of the second year; and so in succession, that the board may be divided into classes so that one-fifth, as near as may be, shall be appointed every year; and the said persons shall be subject to suspension, as aforesaid, and removal by the States, respectively, for misconduct or neglect of duty as aforesaid.

SEC. 3. That the said commissioners shall have power to elect a president for one year, and annually thereafter to appoint, pay, and remove their secretary, and other necessary officers or servants, and to take security for their good conduct, and the due discharge of their proper duties.

SEC. 4. That each of the commissioners, and the president, secretary, and other officers and servants, before entering upon the exercise of their respective functions, shall severally take and subscribe an oath, before some

person competent to administer the same, for the honest and punctual performance of their several and respective duties under the provisions of this act.

SEC. 5. That it shall be the duty of the said commissioners to devise and prepare a national currency, to be printed on both sides, in convenient denominations for interchanges or remittances, not being less than twenty dollars, nor exceed in the whole twenty-nine millions and four hundred thousand dollars; and to register and distribute the same, upon application as hereinafter provided, to the several States, in the ratio of one hundred thousand dollars for each and every vote to which the States so applying, respectively, may be entitled to in the election of a President and Vice President of the United States, to be disposed of by the said States under such regulations as they may exact, not inconsistent with this act, nor the rules and ordinances of the board of currency to be constituted in virtue thereof.

SEC. 6. That the said currency shall be redeemed, upon demand, at such places, respectively, as may be expressed on the face thereof.

SEC. 7. That the said currency shall be signed, in behalf of the United States, by the president and secretary of the board of commissioners to be appointed in virtue of this act, and countersigned by two of the principal officers of the financial institutions of the several States, respectively, in which the same shall be distributed and made redeemable.

SEC. 8. That the currency shall be transferable by delivery and endorsement of the Treasurer, or principal Treasury officer of the State to which the same shall be apportioned, and made receivable from any person who may be entitled to pay the same; and the said currency, wherever made redeemable, shall be everywhere received in payments to the United States.

SEC. 9. That if any person shall falsely make, forge, or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, forged, or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in falsely making, forging, or counterfeiting, any note, writing, or engraving, in imitation, or purporting to be a part of the currency to be created in virtue of this act, or shall falsely alter, or cause or procure to be falsely altered, or willingly aid or assist in falsely altering any part of the said currency, or shall pass, alter, or publish, as true, any false, forged, or counterfeit note, purporting to be a part thereof, knowing the same to be falsely forged or counterfeited, or shall pass, alter, or publish, or attempt to pass, alter, or publish, as true, any falsely altered note or currency as aforesaid, knowing the same to be falsely altered, every such person shall be deemed and adjudged guilty of felony; and, being convicted by due course of law, shall be sentenced to imprisonment, and kept at hard labor for a period of not less than three nor more than ten years, and be fined not exceeding five thousand dollars.

SEC. 10. That twenty thousand dollars, to be paid out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated for defraying the expenses of preparing, engraving, printing, signing, and otherwise incident to the currency authorized by this act.

SEC. 11. That each of the States, having assented and certified as aforesaid, shall be entitled to receive a portion of the currency hereby authorized to be created, not exceeding the limitation prescribed herein, upon the requisition of its Executive, and the payment of one per centum on the amount required, with a contract duly executed by the Treasurer, or principal

Treasury officer of the said State, to pay in like manner, annually thereafter, unless the same shall be reduced by Congress, and then to pay the per centage as so reduced; and to provide a specie capital of not less than a fourth of the said portion of currency in the coin of the United States, or such foreign coins as may be authorized by law, as a basis of its operations, and a security for the public moneys which may be committed to the institutions of the said States, respectively, under the provisions of this act.

SEC. 12. That the currency, to be created in virtue of this act, shall be receivable in all payments at each and every of the institutions of the several States in contemplation of this act, and at all their branches or departments, without regard to the place of its creation or redemption; for which purpose, it shall be the duty of the said States to make provisions accordingly.

SEC. 13. That the fiscal institutions of the said States, to be established with a view to the purposes of this act, shall have the custody and provide for the transmission and disbursement of the moneys of the United States, and for exchanges between the States, under such conditions and regulations as the Congress may prescribe; and the said States shall be severally, distinctly, and irrevocably responsible to the United States for their respective portions of the currency, which shall be made payable by their enactments in the proper revenues of, and in all payments to, the said States, and convertible on demand, at their respective institutions, into coin as aforesaid. And in case the payment or conversion into coin, as aforesaid, shall be refused at any of the said institutions, the bearer shall be entitled to recover the amount demanded from such institution in any court having jurisdiction thereof, with interest thereon at the rate of ten per centum per annum from the date of such demand, until paid and satisfied; and in case the person having the right to such demand shall fail to recover, in due course of law, the amount thereof from such institution, or any part thereof, it shall be lawful for such person to receive therefor, or for any deficiency or unsatisfied part of such demand, a certificate or certificates of funded stock bearing interest at five per centum from the first of the calendar month next ensuing that on which the said claim shall have been presented. And the stock thus to be issued shall be transferable in the same manner as the late or former funded debt of the United States; the interest on the same, and its reimbursement, shall be effected out of such fund as shall be established by law for that purpose. And the faith of the United States is hereby pledged to establish sufficient revenues, and to appropriate them, for effecting the purposes aforesaid: *Provided*, That it shall be lawful for the United States to reimburse the stock thus created at any time after two years from the issuing thereof.

SEC. 14. That each of the institutions of the assenting States as aforesaid, before they shall be employed as depositories of the public moneys, shall agree to receive them upon the following conditions, viz: *First*, To pass, as specie, all sums deposited therein to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, and to pay all checks, warrants, or drafts, drawn on such depository, in specie, if required by the holder thereof. *Secondly*, To give, whenever required by the Treasury, the necessary facilities for transferring the public funds from place to place within the United States and territories thereof, and for distributing the same in payments to the public creditors, without charging any commission or claiming any allowance on account of difference of exchange or otherwise. *Thirdly*, To furnish to the Secretary of the Treasury, from time to time, as often as he may re-

quire, not exceeding once a week, statements of its condition and business, setting forth the amount of capital paid in and the debts due to the same, of the moneys deposited therein, of the notes in circulation, and of the specie on hand, with such other information or details as may be required by the said Secretary; and shall also furnish to the Treasurer of the United States a weekly statement of his account upon the books of the institution.

SEC. 15. That in case the said institutions, or any one of them employed as a depository of the public moneys under the provisions of this act, shall fail to comply with any of the duties enjoined upon them, or assumed by the State to which the same shall appertain; or, if it shall appear from the periodical statements of any of the said institutions, or from personal inspection of its affairs, that such institution is an unsafe depository of the public moneys, the board shall proceed to state the facts to the Secretary of the Treasury, whose duty it shall be, with the approbation of Congress previously obtained, if in session, and, if Congress be not in session, to discontinue such institution. And in case of the discontinuance of any of the said institutions in the recess of Congress, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to report to Congress the facts and reasons which induced such discontinuance.

SEC. 16. That the board of currency, by any one or more of its commissioners, shall have and exercise a visitorial and supervisory control over the institutions of the several States in the contemplation of this act, and all their branches and ramifications. And it shall be the duty of the said board, by deputation as aforesaid, to visit each and every of the said institutions once in every six months at the least, and thoroughly to inspect the affairs of said institutions; to examine all the books, papers, notes, bonds, and other evidences of debt of the said institutions; to compare their funds and property with the statements to be made by them, according to the provisions of this act; and, generally, to make such inquiries and examinations as may be necessary to ascertain the actual condition of said institutions, and their ability to fulfil all engagements made by them.

SEC. 17. That the said commissioners, or either of them, shall have power to examine, upon oath, all the officers, agents, or servants of the said institutions, or any of them, or any other person, in relation to the affairs and condition of said institutions; which oath the said commissioners, or either of them, are personally authorized to administer.

SEC. 18. That in case the said commissioners shall ascertain, from such inspection and examination, or in any other manner, that any of the said institutions have violated the provisions of this act, the said commissioners shall immediately report the facts ascertained from such inspection and examination, or otherwise, to the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall proceed forthwith, as he shall deem expedient, to protect the public from loss or damage, according to the provisions of this act, or the existing laws of the United States.

SEC. 19. That it shall be the duty of the said commissioners, in the month of December, in every year, to report to Congress the manner in which they shall have discharged the duties imposed upon them by this act, and to accompany their report, so to be made by them, with such other statements and abstracts as they may deem useful to the public interest.

SEC. 20. That the said commissioners shall not disclose the names of the debtors of any of the said institutions which may be examined by them,

nor any information obtained in the course of such examinations, unless required in a court of justice, or in some proceeding authorized by this act.

SEC. 21. That every officer, agent, or clerk of the said institutions, who shall make false statements, or false entries, in the books of such institutions, or shall exhibit false papers, with intent to deceive the said commissioners as to the condition of such institution, shall be deemed and adjudged to be guilty of felony, and, upon conviction thereof in due course of law, shall be sentenced to imprisonment, and kept at hard labor for a term not less than three nor more than ten years.

SEC. 22. That it shall be the duty of the board of currency to devise and ordain all necessary rules and ordinances for the convenient transaction and good government of their operations, and to secure the observance of this act and all its provisions by the several States thereunto assenting, and for the faithful performance of their several duties and obligations; and to require such statements, from time to time, as may be deemed essential to the due protection of the public interest; for which purpose the said commissioners shall have power and full authority, by and in virtue of this act.

SEC. 23. That the Secretary shall receive the per centage to be paid by the States, make all needful disbursements thereof, under the direction of the board, and account to Congress for any balance which may remain.

SEC. 24. That each of the members of the board of currency shall be entitled to receive ——— dollars *per diem* for the time necessarily employed therein, and ——— dollars for every twenty miles of necessary travelling on the business of the board.

SEC. 25. That the District of Columbia, and each of the Territories of the United States, shall be entitled to a contingent of the currency to be created by this act, under such conditions and limitations as may be enacted for such purposes; and whenever any of the said Territories shall be admitted into the Union, the same shall be entitled, as a State, to all the benefits and immunities of this act; and the amount of the currency shall be commensurately increased for that purpose.

SEC. 26. That it shall be the duty of the board of currency to keep fair records of all their proceedings, and the same shall be open to the inspection of either House of Congress, or any committee thereof; and the right to modify or repeal this act, or any of its provisions, shall be reserved subject to the just fulfilment of all existing unsatisfied engagements.

SEC. 27. That it shall be the duty of the board to consider all subjects connected with the currency in relation to the interests of agriculture, manufactures, or commerce, which may be charged upon it by either branch of Congress, and report thereon from time to time.

SEC. 28. That a majority of the commissioners shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for transacting the general business of the board; but any six of the members, with their president, may transact the ordinary business, in conformity to the rules and ordinances.

SEC. 29. That in case of sickness, or necessary absence of the President, he shall designate a member of the board to act as president *pro tempore* for ordinary business; and, in default of such designation, the board (any seven members being present) may elect a president *pro tempore*.

From the aforegoing it will be seen that *a connexion of institutions belonging to the States exclusively*, or to *such as they would be responsible for*, is contemplated; and it is not to be supposed that such responsibility

would be assumed without an entire or principal interest in the capital, and *an actual control in the management.*

It appears that the highly beneficial principle of assuming the sovereign right of banking, has been adopted and improved in several of the States, and, with the progressive developments of its benefits, the more has it gained upon the public favor; its most potent enemy is that which has grown out of *an excess of grants* to private corporations for such purposes. But if the regulation of the currency is to be regarded as A PUBLIC RIGHT; if the good of *the whole* is to be preferred to the *special interests of a favored few;* and if there be enough of intelligence among the people to understand the proposition, and to appreciate its merits, (which cannot be doubted,) we may well anticipate the eventual establishment of a national currency, under the agency of a *connected system of institutions belonging solely to the States.*

The doctrine of the great father of democracy is peculiarly apposite and interesting at the present crisis, as it presents a practicable *succedaneum,* through the medium of a measure of value, which, by "its *solidity, universality of circulation, and receivability in all public payments,* would make its way, and supplant the paper of private banks or corporations of individuals." These are the views of JEFFERSON; and although the Congress may not be authorized to establish a paper currency as an absolute tender in private contracts, yet the influence they may exercise in securing its soundness, through the collections of the revenue, has been admitted by the purest patriots and most enlightened statesmen of this republic in various departments of the Government.

In the early annals of the constitution, the power was affirmed by Gen. Hamilton, in his public character, "to designate or appoint the money or thing in which the taxes are to be paid," as being "not only a proper, but a necessary exercise of the power of collecting them; accordingly, Congress, in the law concerning the collection of the duties on imposts and tonnage, have provided that they shall be payable in silver or gold. But while it was an indispensable part of the work to say in what they should be paid, the choice of the specific thing was a mere matter of discretion. The payment might have been required in the commodities themselves; taxes in kind are not without precedent, even in the United States; or they might have been in the paper money of the several States, or of the bills of the Banks of North America, New York, or Massachusetts, all or each of them; or it might have been *in bills issued under the* AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES. No part of this, it is presumed, can be disputed. The appointment of the money or thing in which the taxes are to be paid, is an incident to the power of collection; and, among the expedients which may be adopted, is that of bills issued under the authority of the United States." These are the views of HAMILTON; and this contemporaneous commentary has received the sanction of succeeding sages, in the practical employment of the TREASURY NOTES as a medium of EXCHANGE AND CIRCULATION.

It therefore appears that a paper currency is not inhibited by the constitution; and that such a currency may be created by the General Government, and distributed among the States, under proper guards and regulations to insure its credit and convertibility into gold or silver, and to promote, incalculably, the common welfare, is equally evident; as the productive principles of a high and valuable prerogative would thereby be diffused, by its

operations, to the whole people, and not confined to the benefit or profit of a special few or privileged order. The plan, indeed, is esteemed sufficient for all the beneficial purposes in contemplation, without the evils of *a soulless combination of corporators;* it is, in effect, A NATIONAL BANK OF EXCHANGE AND DEPOSITE, without the privileges of issuing notes or loaning money as regards the General Government, in connexion with an equitable and secure system for the receipt and distribution of the federal revenue—commensurate, in fact, with the wealth and credit of the several States, embracing *the entire property and population of the whole Union.* To each and every of the States it would impart a rich resource in public income, and diffuse the means of propelling industry and enterprise, and, by accelerating improvements throughout the country, promote the amelioration of every interest and class of society; and while such a system would essentially enlarge the specie basis, and adapt the local circulation to the common uses and demands of ordinary business, the national currency would supply the facilities of interchanges in large transactions, on terms convenient and economical.

In reference to the pending question, the great object of desire is A MEDIUM OF UNIFORM AND EQUAL VALUE THROUGHOUT THE UNION; to accomplish which, it is proposed that A CURRENCY SHALL BE CREATED BY THE UNITED STATES upon the FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE WHOLE NATION, GUARANTIED BY THE STATES, RECEIVABLE EVERYWHERE IN ALL PUBLIC PAYMENTS, AND CONVERTIBLE INTO SILVER OR GOLD on presentation at each and every of the institutions of the States. If a better *medium* can be devised, it remains to be demonstrated.

For the more ample illustration and better understanding of the matter, some additional views in relation to the expediency and justice of the proposition, and in support of the practical effects anticipated to flow from the operations of the interesting measures in contemplation, will be submitted.

By the federal compact, the entire revenue from duties on imports is ceded to the General Government *exclusively;* and the States are consequently reduced to the necessity of resorting to direct taxation, or to incidental sources, for defraying the expenses of their administrations. The receipt of income to the national Treasury from the mere circulating medium, does not appear to have entered into the consideration of the framers of that compact; and the benefits derivable from the resource in question may be justly regarded as *a reservation of the whole people, to be enjoyed in their respective States.*

From documentary information, and estimates entitled to credit, it may be fairly inferred that the amount of contributions *extorted from the people for the use of a public right, and eventually drawn from the land and labor of the country, has exceeded annually the average avails of the duties on imports for the last three fiscal years.*

In a critical examination of this topic, it would seem that, if such a course of contribution is to be tolerated, *the resulting revenue ought to enure to the common benefit, and not to enrich a favored few, or privileged order of corporators;* and the more especially, as the resources of the States, with the aid of the national currency and the capital imparted by the public deposites, would abundantly sustain the proposed system, under judicious regulations properly administered.

It is not to be presumed, nor even supposed, that the plan presented could be carried immediately into full effect throughout the Union, as the existence of charters conferring vested rights might operate to impede, or virtually preclude, its useful action in some of the States for years to come. But many members of the confederation are unincumbered by such grants, and all, in time, might be relieved, by their expiration, or otherwise.

The full enjoyment of this prerogative being susceptible of producing avails of vast extent, would not only enable the several States to perfect their lines of intercommunication already in progress or in prospect, as well as to promote improvements in literature, and other desirable ameliorations, but tend incalculably to increase productions in every interest, and, by augmenting exportable commodities, to supply and nourish exterior commerce, and essentially enhance the means of comfort among the people.

With reference to the private corporations in which the public moneys have been deposited, they are not calculated, by the nature of their organization, nor the course of their administration, to inspire confidence as depositories of the national treasures. Neither are they to be viewed as the most eligible vehicles of distribution, nor as the most competent regulators of monetary interchanges in remote regions, having, as they have, different interests and variant points of policy. Among the many objections to which those corporations are obnoxious in the public estimation, some are similar to such as existed in the late Bank of the United States. And, although less eminently calculated to attract rival investments, and to generate foreign influences, or to combine a concentration of power in the possession of a few, or a single individual, dangerous to the peace and prosperity of the country, or to the vital principles of the Government, yet, composing, as they do, a distinct community, with inordinate power to act in private, and having privileges superior to the common mass of our population—constituting, in fact, an order which consumes the fruits of the common labor, without contributing to its production in due degree—they may well be viewed as hostile to the spirit of a free republic; and the paper of such, (emitted by irresponsible corporations, acting in conclave, with a sole regard to private benefits,) from apprehensions of its solidity arising from the frequency of their failures, or depreciation, could not maintain that uniform and equal value which would SUSTAIN THE ISSUES OF A BOARD BASED UPON THE WEALTH AND CREDIT OF THE WHOLE NATION, GUARANTIED BY THE STATES, RECEIVABLE IN ALL PUBLIC PAYMENTS, and immediately CONVERTIBLE INTO GOLD OR SILVER.

Respectfully submitted:

LITTLETON DENNIS TEACKLE, *of Maryland.*

25th Congress,
1st Session.

MEMORIAL

OF

THE NEW ORLEANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

PRAYING

The establishment of a National Bank.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1837.

Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

The memorial of the New Orleans chamber of commerce

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That the deplorable condition of the currency, and the consequent depressed state of the commercial and other great interests of the country, have induced your memorialists to inquire into the causes which have led to this result, with the view of ascertaining such remedial measures as it may be in the power of Congress to apply; with a firm reliance that the wisdom and patriotism of the representatives of the nation will insure that mature consideration of this important subject, and will induce such action as will relieve our country from the unprecedented embarrassment under which it now suffers.

In submitting the views of the chamber of commerce of New Orleans on the subject, it is deemed proper to take a retrospective view of the condition of this country during the existence of the late national bank, and also of its condition since the extinction of said bank under the State bank system.

During the former period, the prudential course of policy pursued by that institution preserved the great interests of the country generally in a sound and healthful state; property had a gradual and natural upward tendency; agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, were in a flourishing condition; extravagant speculations were rarely entered into, or, if entered into, were speedily checked by the wholesome restrictive power judiciously exercised by the bank; the sales of the public lands were proportionate with the natural demand consequent on the increase of population and wealth; the national revenues, increasing from the same causes, were collected and disbursed throughout our extended territory, without expense and without loss.

Among other advantages that experience has proven were derived from this institution, the following may be adduced:

1st. Its circulation had such universal confidence, that it could be, and was, rendered practically useful for all commercial and domestic purposes, from one extreme of the Union to the other, at its nominal value, without any discount whatever.

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2d. It regulated, on safe and equitable principles, the course of domestic and foreign exchanges: by the former, the people were enabled to transmit funds from one distant place to another, at a reasonable charge; and by the latter, it checked the export of the precious metals when the rate of premium, owing to large importations of foreign merchandise, or other causes, was advancing so as to tempt their exportation.

3d. Its discounts of local business paper were generally fully adequate to the legitimate wants of the community; and its aid in this respect was often interposed when the then comparatively few State banks were unable to give the needful assistance.

4th. Its vast means, in consequence of the universal confidence in its emissions, enabled it to expand, during those periods of commercial pressure that are unavoidable, and that cause a rapid contraction of the means of local banks, at the time their aid is most required by the community.

5th. It exercised a wholesome check on the emissions of the State banks, whenever these emissions were excessive, and were tending to introduce a spirit of dangerous speculation.

6th. Pending the existence of the national bank, manufactures of all kinds, raw produce, &c., generally bore a value about commensurate with the proportion of supply and consumption; consequently, investments made therein were comparatively safe to the parties concerned, and therefore to the public at large.

In the year 1830, the opinion generally obtained that the charter of the Bank of the United States would not be renewed, and in 1832 the veto of the President confirmed that opinion; measures were then taken by Government to increase the metallic circulation, by augmenting the value of gold beyond the standard adopted by other nations: in consequence of these steps, the public mind was directed with intense interest to the course which it would be proper to pursue in order to supply the diminished facilities that would result from the extinction of the national bank. A new impetus was given to the creation of the State banks, until their number was increased from three hundred and twenty-nine, in 1830, to eight hundred and twenty-three, in 1837, making an additional number of four hundred and ninety-four; while from 1816 to 1830, a period of fourteen years, the increase had been only eighty-three.

The State banks, relieved from the restraining power so judiciously exercised by the national bank, accorded unreasonable and indiscriminate credits, and increased the paper circulation of the country one hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars; a feverish impulse was given to all classes of society; an unnatural rise occurred in all species of property; the sales of public lands were increased from two million three hundred thousand dollars, in 1830, to twenty-four million five hundred thousand dollars, in 1836; an entire derangement of the currency, as well as of the courses of foreign and domestic exchanges, ensued; until finally, at the close of 1836, and early in 1837, the banks of Europe, finding a great diminution of the precious metals in their vaults, principally caused by the influence of the "gold bill" and the "Treasury circular," began to direct restrictive measures against those who were either directly or indirectly concerned in the commerce of this country. When this restrictive policy was made known in the United States, uneasiness and alarm exercised their influence on the minds of the community; and as all subsequent intelligence from Europe only tended to increase this alarm, the State banks throughout the country

became panic-struck, and commenced a course of curtailment, thereby rapidly reducing the value of property of all descriptions, and depriving their debtors of the means of meeting promptly their engagements—engagements which had been induced by the indiscreet prodigality of these very banks themselves, and who were finally, with a few isolated exceptions, compelled to suspend specie payments.

Your memorialists, in illustration of their views, respectfully submit a statement of the rates of domestic and foreign exchanges at New Orleans, during the ten years preceding the expiration of the charter of the Bank of the United States, and those which rule at the present time; and a statement of the rates of discount on State bank paper, other than that of Louisiana, with the rates of premium on United States Bank notes; they have, also, added a comparative view of the rise in the value of property, during the existence of the national bank, and since its extinction:

Description of property.	During the existence of the United States Bank, from 1827 to 1836.	From the expiration of the charter of the United States Bank to May 13, 1837, in currency.	From 1st July to the 1st of August, 1837, in currency.
Average rate on domestic bills -	¼ to 1 discount -	1 to 4 discount -	3 to 15 discount.
Average rate on foreign bills -	7 to 9 premium -	9 to 13 premium	24 to 26 premium.
Bank sight checks - -	par to ¼ premium	3 to 4 premium -	6 to 10 premium.
Specie - - - -	- - -	2 to 3 premium -	18 to 20 premium.
Bank of the United States notes	par to 1 premium	par to 3 premium	8 to 10 premium.
State bank notes out of the State whence issued - -	par to 5 discount	4 to 10 discount -	10 to 25 discount.
Real estate—rise in value -	5 to 10 annually on good productive property; little demand for any other.	25 to 200 in about eighteen months; property, of little or no intrinsic value, the subject of enormous speculation at most extravagant prices.	Value almost nominal.

The foregoing facts seem to your memorialists to demonstrate clearly—

1st. That the State banks, without the control of a national bank, are incapable of sustaining a well-regulated currency, and of furnishing a medium of negotiating the foreign and domestic exchanges of the country; and experience has besides shown their utter inability to perform the duties of fiscal agents for the collection and disbursements of the Government revenues.

2d. That the want of a national and uniform currency is most severely felt by all classes of the community, and bears with peculiar hardship on the poor, by increasing the cost of all the necessaries of life; while the loss attending the transmission of funds from one part of the Union to another is most oppressive on the internal commerce and manufactures of the country.

3d. That an uncontrolled system of banking, by giving an unnatural and most artificial value to property, produce, and manufactures, operates most unfavorably on the happiness and prosperity of the people.

Your memorialists, after the most mature consideration, and guided in forming their opinion by long experience, beg leave most respectfully to call the attention of Congress to the importance of establishing, without delay, a national bank with branches, in the basis of the charter of the late Bank of the United States, with such modifications and restrictions as the wisdom and experience of the enlightened representatives of the nation may suggest. The early action of Congress being the more important, in order that the banks throughout the Union may speedily be enabled to resume specie payments, which, in the opinion of your memorialists, cannot be effected until a national bank is established.

In submitting this memorial, and its important object, to the consideration of Congress, your memorialists beg leave further to state, that they have been impelled to address you in consequence of the intimate and important connexion between the commercial interests of New Orleans and the agricultural interests of more than half the States of the Union ; a moiety of the whole exports of the domestic produce of the United States being shipped from this city.

The deep interest they, therefore, feel in the adoption of a measure by which the exchanges of the country may, at all times, be negotiated on terms favorable to the agricultural interests, on the prosperity of which our city is so dependant, induces them to believe that their prayer will be favorably received ; and they, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c., &c.

SAM'L J. PETERS, *President.*

LIST OF COMMITTEES

OF THE

SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

FOR THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS, 1837.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1837.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Foreign Relations.

Mr. Buchanan, Chairman,
Tallmadge,
King, of Georgia,
Clay, of Kentucky,
Rives.

On Finance.

Mr. Wright, Chairman,
Webster,
Nicholas,
Benton,
Hubbard.

On Commerce.

Mr. King, of Alabama, Chairman,
Davis,
Brown,
Ruggles,
Norvell.

On Manufactures.

Mr. Niles, Chairman,
Buchanan,
Preston,
Strange,
Pierce.

On Agriculture.

Mr. Smith, of Connecticut, Chairman,
Spence,
Linn,
McKean,
Black.

On Military Affairs.

Mr. Benton, Chairman,
Preston,
Tipton,
Wall,
Allen.

On the Militia.

Mr. Wall, Chairman,
Swift,
Clay, of Alabama,
Mouton,
Smith, of Indiana.

On Naval Affairs.

Mr. Rives, Chairman,
Southard,
Tallmadge,
Cuthbert,
Williams.

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On Public Lands.

Mr. Walker, Chairman,
Fulton,
Clay, of Alabama,
Roane,
Prentiss.

On Private Land Claims.

Mr. Linn, Chairman,
Sevier,
Bayard,
Mouton,
Lyon.

On Indian Affairs.

Mr. White, Chairman,
Sevier,
Tipton,
Linn,
Swift.

On Claims.

Mr. Hubbard, Chairman,
Tipton,
Crittenden,
Strange,
Young.

On Revolutionary Claims.

Mr. Brown, Chairman,
White,
Crittenden,
Norvell,
Smith, of Connecticut.

On the Judiciary.

Mr. Grundy, Chairman,
Morris,
King, of Georgia,
Wall,
Clayton.

On the Post Office and Post Roads.

Mr. Robinson, Chairman,
Grundy,
Knight,
Brown,
Niles.

On Roads and Canals.

Mr. Tipton, Chairman,
McKean,
Nicholas,
Young,
Williams.

On Pensions.

Mr. Morris, Chairman,
Sevier,
Prentiss,
Pierce,
Roane.

On the District of Columbia

Mr. Kent, Chairman,
King, of Alabama,
Nicholas,
Roane,
Allen.

On Patents and the Patent Off

Mr. Ruggles, Chairman,
Strange,
Bayard,
Prentiss,
Robinson.

To audit and control the contingent expenses of the Senate.

Mr. McKean,
Fulton,
Black.

On Engrossed Bills.

Mr. Clay, of Alabama,
Smith, of Indiana,
Norvell.

On Enrolled Bills.

Mr. Smith, of Connecticut,
Lyon,
Allen.

25th CONGRESS,
1st Session.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI,

PRAYING

The creation of a National Bank.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1837.
Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The memorial of the chamber of commerce of the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That in the midst of profound peace, embarrassed by no great political struggles, surrounded by all the elements of prosperity, we find our country involved in financial ruin; the hand of industry arrested; all concert and harmony in our monetary operations destroyed; all interchanges of property impeded; all internal exchanges embarrassed; the confidence which hitherto existed between man and man, in our commercial relations, prostrated, nay, almost wholly destroyed; and the whole nation forced to the desperate resort of a suspension of specie payments, the only acknowledged basis of a sound monetary system. Thus are contracts rendered insecure, public and private faith violated, the value of property unsettled, and the people exposed to the imposition of uncontrolled issues of irredeemable bank notes. Capital is rapidly disappearing from those channels in which it has been most beneficial, to be hoarded where it lies idle and useless to the community; productive establishments, furnishing profitable employment to the laborer, the mechanic, and the farmer, are suspended; capital and labor are, in fact, divorced to the ruin of the industrious man, who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow, and to the injury of the capitalist: these are evils engendered by the destruction of general confidence—the great stimulant to agricultural, mechanical, and commercial prosperity. Your memorialists confidently avow the belief, that the only remedy for these accumulated evils is within the jurisdiction of your honorable bodies; that it exists in the creation of a specie-paying national banking institution, obligated to perform such fiscal duties as may be required by Government, and whose energies and resources shall be directed so as to effect the equalization of exchanges throughout the country. Such

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an institution, by extending its prosperous influences to the thresholc every citizen, would, your memorialists believe, prove a national blessi In the creation of such an institution, two great objects, intimately c nected with the well-being of the nation, would, in the judgment of y memorialists, be attained:

1. A resumption of specie payments, without which no safe standar value can exist.

2. An equalization, so far as is practicable, of the exchanges of United States.

As to the power of the Government to organize such an institution, doubt, it is presumed, can now be entertained. It was exercised dur the administration of Washington, and has received in some form, more less direct, the sanction of all his successors; has been thrice sanctioned by the National Legislature, and by the highest court of judicature in our country.

Your memorialists accordingly request that Congress will create suc an institution as is herein before suggested, by which great advantages wil be conferred on the country, while the rights of the General and State Governments may, at the same time, be scrupulously protected from encroachment and injury.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

EDW. TRACY, *President.*

Attest:

JOHN FORD, *Secretary.*

25th CONGRESS,
1st Session.

MEMORIAL

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO,

For an increase of the circulation of gold and silver, and opposed to the creation of banks and paper money.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1837.

Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The undersigned petitioners, citizens of Columbiana county, Ohio,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT:

That it is with regret we have learned that another attempt will be made, at your extra session, to procure an act of incorporation for a national bank, either by renewing the charter of the present "Bank of the United States," or by granting banking powers to another company, similar in their nature to the late charter of that institution. We deem it unnecessary to present arguments to enlighten the minds of your honorable body upon the dangers to be apprehended from granting such an act of incorporation. The history of the last few years is too vivid in your recollection to need even a recapitulation of the gross abuse of the powers conferred by Congress on such an institution. We have witnessed, as well as felt, the effects of the disastrous convulsions which the business of the country has at times been subject to, in consequence of the unceasing struggle of the Bank of the United States to *force* a renewal of its national existence. We believe that the constitution does not confer upon Congress the power to establish such a moneyed corporation; and even if such a power were conferred, we should deem it inexpedient to exercise it: believing, as we do, that it would be creating an irresponsible power, greater than the Government itself, through the omnipotence to be obtained over the currency of the country.

"That, in the midst of profound peace, embarrassed by no great political struggles, surrounded by all the elements of prosperity, we find our country involved in financial ruin," not from a want of banking and paper money, mainly from a *superabundance* of them, and the faithless manner in h their obligations to the public have been executed.

our petitioners, therefore, request that, instead of creating more banking al, and thereby the issue of more paper money, you will take all con-

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stitutional measures to increase the circulation of the constitutional currency of gold and silver, and to cause a proportionate decrease in the circulation of their unworthy representatives, paper money. And we believe the first and most effectual measure for accomplishing this much-desired object should be the total separation of the fiscal concerns of the Government of the United States from the concerns of banking institutions, and the receiving and disbursing by the Government of none other than the legal and constitutional currency of the country.

MEMORIAL

OF A

NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF CARROLL COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI,

Praying the creation of a National Bank.

September 11, 1837.
Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The undersigned citizens of Carrollton, and of Carroll county, in the State of Mississippi,

Respectfully represent:

That within the last few years they have witnessed with astonishment a rash and unfortunate experiment made by the national administration upon the currency and prosperity of the country, in dispensing with a national bank, the only efficient check which has ever been devised for controlling the issues of the State banks. Your memorialists give their testimony, that the predictions then made by the most experienced statesmen in Congress, in regard to the probable effects of that experiment, have been verified to the letter. From having been possessed of a currency, during the existence of the United States Bank, as sound as any which any country has ever enjoyed, and which was of equal value with gold and silver in every State in the Union, this experiment has brought about a condition of the country in which the notes of the State banks (the only kind of currency which we have) have depreciated in the State generally to from ten to fifteen per cent. below par; and in some places on the Mississippi river, your memorialists are credibly informed that the produce traders from the upper country make a difference of fifty per cent. between our State bank paper and specie. Your memorialists believe that if an estimate could be made of the entire loss thus sustained, in all transactions between citizens of this and those of other States, including the enormous premium which our merchants must pay for eastern funds, it would be found that this wretched *experiment* has taxed this State alone to the amount of several hundred thousand dollars. But what renders it most vexatious is the fact that it was made in total disregard of the voice of experience, inasmuch as two *experiments* to dispense with a national bank had been made before, both of which alike failed. As connected with this subject, your memorialists would notice the fact, that notwithstanding this thrice demonstrated necessity for a na-

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tional bank, as a regulator of the currency and exchanges of the country, a class of men who make politics a trade, perfect novices in legal learning, are now, at this late day, endeavoring to raise a question as to the constitutionality of such an institution, when it is known that Washington, "the first in peace and the first in war," the president of the convention which had then just formed the constitution, signed the first bank charter; Mr. Madison, the soundest constitutional lawyer of his day, signed the charter of the late bank, and the Supreme Court of the United States has solemnly decided that Congress has the power to charter such a bank. After having these sanctions, and after forty years' experience of the benefits of such an institution, your memorialists cannot but think that the constitutional question should be regarded as settled, if we are to have any thing like uniformity in construing the fundamental law. As the only remedy for the present deranged and depreciated state of the currency, and for the total destruction of commercial exchanges, your memorialists pray that a national bank may be chartered, having as little connexion with the national administration as the late Bank of the United States.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

MEMORIAL

OF

LEWIS FEUCHTWANGER,

PRAYING

Congress to substitute his invention, called "German silver," in place of the copper coinage of the United States.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1837.

Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives.

The memorial of Lewis Feuchtwanger, of the city of New York,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

That your memorialist, after repeated labors, has succeeded in making and perfecting a metallic composition, known as German silver, of clean, white, and durable materials, of specific value, from which coins and all articles can be advantageously manufactured, as are now wrought out of pure silver.

Your memorialist proposes to your hononorable body to substitute this composition for the copper currency of the country, by striking off pieces of the size of a dime and of the value of one cent, specimens of which he has prepared for inspection.

Your memorialist proposes to furnish this substitute for copper as cheaply as copper is now furnished to the mint, and is confident that the "silver cent," thus proposed as a substitute for the cent pieces, will be more acceptable, more portable, and would be more generally used in making up the fractional parts of a dollar.

Your memorialist prays your honorable body to take the subject under your consideration, and as in duty bound, will ever pray.

LEWIS FEUCHTWANGER.

Blair & Rives, printers.

MEMORIAL

OF

A NUMBER OF IMPORTING MERCHANTS OF NEW YORK,

PRAYING

An extension of the time for payment of duty bonds.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

The undersigned, merchants, importers, and others, connected with the commerce of the city of New York,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT:

That, owing to embarrassments existing in every branch of commerce and trade, many of your memorialists were compelled to apply to the Executive Department of the Government in May last, for relief in the payment of bonds given for duties on merchandise imported by them into the city of New York:

That, on these applications, instructions to the Attorney of this district were given by the Treasury Department, to extend the terms of payment of such bonds, then over due, or falling due before the first of October next, until that day: That, prior to the assembling of Congress, the Chamber of Commerce of this city addressed the Secretary of the Treasury on the same subject, urging that he should suggest, in his report to your honorable body, the necessity and advantage both to your memorialists and to the United States of a further prolongation of the times of payment, to wit: for one year from the period the said bonds should fall due; which representation is referred to in the report of the Secretary to Congress.

As in this report the honorable Secretary sets forth, that "when the difficulties in discharging bonds in legal currency became increased by the suspension of specie payments in some of the principal cities, that the President decided to call a special session of Congress," and further, that "the postponement was allowed to be extended till after the commencement of the session, in order that an opportunity might be afforded to obtain further relief by new legislation," the undersigned hesitate not to press upon your honorable body their own convictions of the importance of the subject, and their solicitations that it may be speedily considered.

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The amount of duty bonds, which are or will be due by the first of October, in this port, is believed to be nearly four millions of dollars; of those falling due thereafter, before the first of January next, one million more; and the amount of duties on merchandise not entered, now lying in public store and which will be payable this year also, is estimated at two millions more; in all, exceeding seven millions of dollars of indebtedness for duties to be discharged in this port alone, under existing laws, in the next three months, not including duties accruing on goods, subject to cash duties, arriving during that time. This amount, large as it is, would have been discharged by the merchants of New York in ordinary circumstances, with their accustomed and acknowledged punctuality; but, in the existing unparalleled derangements of commerce and of the currency, your memorialists affirm, that its payment is impossible, without a longer prolongation than that which appears to be contemplated, to wit: "a delay altogether not to exceed six months beyond the original period of payment in any particular case;" or in other words, a payment of over four millions of dollars by February, and of the residue, three millions, not including duties on importations subsequent to October, on or before the 15th April.

Your memorialists respectfully beg leave to differ from the views expressed by the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury, and their reasons are derived from a mournful consideration of the present situation and immediate prospects of the commerce of the city. Under a system of credit, over extended perhaps, but heretofore beneficial to themselves and advantageous to the Government, the undersigned had, up to the period of the commercial explosions throughout the Union, sold the goods on which these duties have mainly accrued, or expected to sell them, to an intermediate class of dealers between the importers and the consumers, known under the name of jobbers, for notes at six to twelve months' credit, relying upon having such paper discounted if necessary, or at least of realizing it punctually at maturity, and thus of having the ability to discharge their indebtedness for duties. The jobbers in turn had been accustomed to distribute the goods thus purchased amongst their customers, to the remotest quarter of the Union, on a credit of at least equal extent, and payable at various distant places, counting upon their ability to avail of such payments in discharge of their own engagements. This reliance, upon which the business, in this extensive department of trade, has heretofore securely rested, has this year entirely failed, owing to causes which it is not the intention of your memorialists even to advert to: the distant buyer is no longer able to pay the jobber, but asks time till the planter or farmer can pay him out of his next crop, whether of cotton or tobacco, or wheat; the jobber, almost without exception, cannot therefore at present pay your memorialists; and your memorialists are driven by these causes, over which they have no control and against which no human foresight could guard, to ask the same accommodation at your hands. Under these unparalleled circumstances, a deplorable state of things never before known has arisen, viz: a voluntary and almost universal extension on the part of creditors, to a most important and intermediate class of dealers, of twelve, eighteen, and twenty-four months, in which to pay debts existing when these disasters overtook the country; a time which, almost by universal consent, is thought requisite to arrange and liquidate the deranged business of the country. As your memorialists have, with others given so very generally this indulgence, it must appear evident to your honorable body,

that they ask nothing unreasonable in requesting relief; and this not as an act of mere benevolence from the Government, but as one dictated by a wise care of its own interests.

The situation of your memorialists, and of the Executive branch of the Government, in relation to distant funds, is identical, and from the same causes; and if, with a large surplus in the Treasury, a necessity exists for a loan, or other aid from Congress, to carry on the ordinary operations of Government, it is evident, that, with additional causes of pressure, the mercantile interest of the country needs it for a greater degree and for a longer time.

Your memorialists need not point out to Congress, that, from the postponement of the large debts due from different sections of the United States to this city, their own capitals and present ability are greatly impaired. Moreover, it is important to remark, that the city of New York, where are collected two-fifths of the whole duties of the United States, by the present embarrassment in trade, is actually already in advance to the Government of a large amount of duties not yet repaid by the consumers. The average time at which duties are payable, is four and a half months from the arrival of the goods, excepting on wool and woollens, which pay cash. When the difficulties in trade began, there was a large amount of duty bonds in existence, which have been since discharged, on goods not yet paid for by the consumers. And as for woollens, the greatest portion of the value of the whole, now in the country, has been here more than twelve months, the duties on a large share of which were paid in cash at the periods of arrival, and the importers from those periods have been in advance for them. The operation of cash duties is to compel the importers to pay the duties on these articles to Government twelve to eighteen months in advance of their consumption. In addition to this drain upon the resources of this city, an amount has been transferred, by the distribution among the States of the surplus revenue, in a little more than a year, from the banks of the city of New York, of nearly, if not quite, thirteen millions of dollars; greatly diminishing their means of present aid to your memorialists and to the commerce of the city, so recently before called upon to sustain an unexampled destruction of property by fire. If, therefore, your memorialists, instead of turning to the Government for relief, should seek aid of the banks, in order that the Government may be promptly paid, they would be found crippled by these transfers of the public moneys, by their suspended debts with other institutions out of the State, and with their ordinary customers, and with public policy and private interests; and, we doubt not, an imperative sense of their own obligations pressing upon them to make all reasonable efforts to resume specie payments.

Now, therefore, your memorialists would respectfully declare, that this large amount of indebtedness cannot be liquidated in less time than in one year by so depressed and suffering a community, having an immense suspended debt at distant points, with no legal currency, with disabled banks struggling to resume cash-payments, and a general paralysis over all the business and exchanges of the country.

Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully ask the enactment, by your honorable body, of laws to authorize,

1st. An extension of all bonds given prior to the 1st of September, 1837, for an average of twelve months from the times of their maturity, with interest to be added.

2d. The like extension of the time for payment of duties on all goods, other than woollens, in public store on the said 1st of September.

3d. An extension of the time for which woollen goods may remain in public store, without being liable to be sold for the payment of duties, to a period of twelve months from the said 1st of September.

NEW YORK, *September* 14, 1837.

McCurdy & Aldrich.
S. & F. Dorr & Co.
J. P. Hamilton.
Roman Watson.
Stone, Swan & Co.
Edwin Lord & Co.
N. J. Elliott & Co.
Rufus L. Lord.
Snelling, Strong & Co.
Thos. Lord & Co.
Hunt & Brooks.
Dan'l Low.
Crocker & Bill.
Satterlee, Masters & Beebee.
Bird & Gillilan.
Alex. B. McAlpin.
Alfred Waller.
Day, Napier & Co.
Abraham Becker.
R. N. Cheseburg.
Crafts, Stevens & Tucker.
Tucker, Dorr & Co.
Parsons, Hughes & Co.
Joseph Lowe.
Gibson, Sons & Co.
Henschen & Unkart.
Th. Jung.
B. F. Lee & Co.
F. S. Schlesinger.
Sands, Turner & Fox.
Amory, Leeds & Co.
Wm. C. Langley.
Crumby & Draper.
Lorenzo Draper.
A. Post.
Cary & Co.
Cochran & Phillips.
Seaman & Brothers.
James A. Spillett.
Jno. Alexander.
M. Attwater & Co.
William Coffin.
Clark & Hunt.
Theod. Victor & Duckwit.
Thomas W. Jones.
H. Butler.
Benjamin Blossom.
John Wright, jr. & Co.
H. & D. Cotheal & Co.
Edward H. Nicoll.
George D. Lamson.
John Correjo.
George W. Phule.
Doremus, Suydams & Nixon.
David N. Lord.
Jno. B. Willis.
Charles Cartlidge.
C. A. & G. F. Everson.
J. C. Buchanan.
J. Hinick.
N. B. Mountfort.
B. H. Downine.
Charles Taylor.
Webb & Tinson.
Churchill, Southmayd & Co.
Matthew Armstrong.
Phelps, Dodge & Co.
Richard Lawrence.
Edw. J. C. Atterbury.
Mulwright & Atterbury.
E. C. G. Fehr & Co.
Jno. C. Townsend.
E. & C. Robbins & Co.
Hart & Merritt.
M'Curdy & Aldrich.
S. & F. Dorr & Co.
J. P. Hamilton.
Roman Watson.
E. Baker & Co.
R. Withers.
Saml. Ingoldsby & Co.
Leggitt, Wooster & France.
Edward Butler.
Reyburn, Audariese & Co.
Charles F. Codwise.
Bowne & Co.
Peter T. Gilbert.
P. & J. S. Crary.
R. Bartlet.
Moon & Jackson.
Porter Denny, sen.
Edw. W. Gerr.

Wm. W. Todd.
Lewis Strasser.
James J. Roosevelt & Son.
Catwell & Murdock.
Paton & Stewart.
Lewis & Benj. Curtis.
Robert Hysloff & Son.
W. & J. Stuart.
W. W. D. Forest & Co.
A. & H. S. Thorp.
Amos Butler.
Geo. Chanee & Garrett.
William Redmond.
Foote, Sterling & Co.
Lersavage & Co.
W. H. Thorn.
Wolf & Hinricks.
Robt. C. Blackburne.
Powden & Kissam.
Thomas Wells.
Joseph Weekes.
Edward N. Collins.
William Binns.
Leverett & Thomas.
Delano & Langdon.
S. J. Tobias.
Fred. A. Sterling.
J. J. Shedel.
John Correjo.
Stone, Swan & Co.
Edwin Lord & Co.
Rufus L. Lord.
N. J. Elliott & Co.
Snelling, Strong & Co.
Thos. Lord & Co.
Hunt & Brooks.
Daniel Low.
Crocker & Bill.
Satterlee, Masters & Beebee.
Bird & Gillilan.
Alex. B. McAlpin.
Alfred Waller.
Day, Napier & Co.
Abraham Becker.
R. W. Cheseburg.
Crafts, Stevens & Tucker.
Tucker, Dorr & Co.
Parsons, Hughes & Co.
Joseph Lowe.
Gibson, Sons & Co.
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Th. Jung.
B. F. Lee & Co.
Littlefield & Man.
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Sands, Turner, Fox & Co.
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Crumby & Draper.
Lorenzo Draper.
James Lee.
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Fellows, Wadsworth & Co.
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Sprague, Robinson & Co.
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W. T. Crook & Co.
Hubbard & Casey.
O. C. Osborne.
J. W. Westervelt.
Decasse, Miege & Co.
Alex. Thompson & Son.
William Wagstaff.
Wm. E. Mathews.
Horatio Gillet.
E. Riggs.
Riggs, Taylor & Co.
Smith & Ruthven.
W. Surell.
Wolfe, Bishop & Co.
Boorman, Johnston & Co.
Heikschers, Coster & Malpley.
Gurdon, Buck & Sons.
Gracie & Sargent.
Booth, Tomlinson & Booth.
F. M. Shapter.
Thos. N. Butler.
White & Richard,
Edw. Cook & Co.
John Wheelwright.
B. C. Rainy.
Holt & Owen.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.
SEPTEMBER 18, 1837.

The following bill, introduced by Mr. Benton, on leave, the 10th June, 1836, was ordered to be printed.

A Bill to re-establish the currency of the Constitution for the Federal Government.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That bank notes and paper currency of every description shall cease to be received, or offered in payment, on account of the United States, or of the Post Office, or in fees in the courts of the United States, as follows: of less denomination than twenty-dollars, none after the third day of March, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven; of less denomination than fifty dollars, none after the third day of March, eighteen hundred and thirty-eight; of less denomination than one hundred dollars, none after the third day of March, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine; of less denomination than five hundred dollars, none after the third day of March, eighteen hundred and forty; of less denomination than one thousand dollars, none after the third day of March, eighteen hundred and forty-one; and none of any denomination from and after the third day of March, eighteen hundred and forty-two.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That any person holding an appointment under the laws of the United States, and any bank employed to keep public moneys, which person or bank shall neglect, evade, violate, contravene, or in any way elude, or attempt to elude, the provisions of this act, shall be guilty of an offence against the laws; and the person so offending shall be liable to be dismissed from the service, and the bank so offending shall, on satisfactory information, be discontinued as a depository of public moneys.

Blair & Rives, printers.

REPORT

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

The report of a board of officers appointed to examine the improvements in fire-arms, made by Hall, Cochran, Colt, and the Baron Hackett; in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 27th January, 1837.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1837.
Read, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
September 19, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the report of a board of officers, appointed in conformity with a resolution of the Senate of the 21st of January, 1837, requiring "an examination to be made by a board of officers into the improvements in fire-arms made by Hall, Cochran, Colt, and the Baron Hackett," &c.

Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. R. M. JOHNSON,
President of the Senate.

Report of the board of officers appointed to examine the improvements in fire-arms made by Hall and others.

The board of officers, appointed by the following "orders," in conformity with a resolution of the Senate, to inquire into and report upon the improvements in fire-arms made by Hall, Cochran, Colt, and the Baron Hackett, and to show the advantages of each in all important military points of view, have the honor to report that the results of the various experiments to which the board has subjected the arms named in the resolution, and which have not failed to establish a decided opinion with regard to their merits and demerits as weapons to be applied to the armament of troops for service in the field, are herewith presented in tabular form, as required by the aforesaid resolution.

Blair & Rives, printers.

From these tables the following results have been obtained, being the most favorable view in either case.

In preparing this report, the board has felt constrained to follow the order prescribed in the resolution, which has, of necessity, involved some repetitions.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 2.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Washington, February* 3, 1837.

I. The Secretary of War, *ad interim*, has received the following resolution from the Senate of the United States:

"*Resolved*, That the Secretary of War be requested to cause an examination to be made, by a board of officers, into the improvements in fire-arms made by Hall, Cochran, Colt, and the Baron Hackett; and that the general results be presented to the Senate, in tabular statements, showing the advantages of each, in all military points of view, and especially as to,

1. The celerity of fire.
2. The extent of the recoil.
3. The efficiency of the fire.
4. The inconvenience of heated barrel in rapid firing.
5. The capacity of being used as a rifle.
6. The simplicity and cheapness of construction.
7. Durability.
8. Saving of ammunition and appendages.
9. The number of charges which may be carried by an infantry soldier.
10. The advantages when used against a charge of cavalry.
11. The advantages when used by cavalry.

II. In conformity with the provisions of the foregoing resolution, the Secretary directs that a board, to be composed of the following officers,

Brevet Brigadier General J. R. Fenwick, Colonel 4th artillery,
Brevet Brigadier General N. Towson, Paymaster General,
Colonel G. Croghan, Inspector General,
Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Worth, Ordnance,
Lieutenant Colonel Wainwright, Marines,
Lieutenant Colonel Talcott, Ordance,
Captain B. Huger, Ordnance,

be assembled at the Washington Arsenal, on Monday the 20th February inst., at 11 o'clock, for the purpose of making a thorough examination of the improvements in fire-arms made by Hall, Colt, Cochran, and the Baron Hackett, in the manner and mode specified in the resolution.

III. The board will report the general results for the information of the Secretary of War, in tabular form, showing the utility of each fire-arm in all important military points of view, as required by the resolution, and will also report such further information on the subject as they may be able to communicate, with their opinion on the relative advantages of the several improvements submitted to their examination.

First Lieutenant J. N. Macomb, of the artillery, and aid-de-camp, will record the proceedings of the board.

By order:

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

SPECIAL ORDER, No. 10. } ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE. *Washington, February*, 20, 1837.

The Secretary of War directs that First Lieutenant R. Anderson, Instructer of Artillery at the Military Academy, be detailed to serve as a member of the board ordered to convene at Washington Arsenal for the purpose of testing the value of the improvements of certain fire-arms, in conformity with General Order, No. 2, of February 3. It is not intended that this assignment shall interfere with his duties at the academy, whenever his services may be required there.

By order:

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

SPECIAL ORDER, No. 35. } ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Washington, May* 15, 1837.

(Extract.)

II. Lieutenant Colonel Talcott, of the ordnance, is relieved from serving as a member of the board of which Brigadier General Fenwick is President, and directed to convene, by General Order, No. 2, for the examination of certain fire-arms; and Brevet Major Baker is detailed as a member of said board, and will accordingly repair to West Point on the 15th of June next, and report to the President.

By order:

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

I. THE CELERITY OF FIRE.

The tables give the following results in loading and firing:

1. *With the Musket.*

No. 1	Hackett's	5	times a minute.
2	Hall's	5	
3	Colt's	3.1	
4	Cochran's	3	
5	United States standard	3	

2. *With Rifles.*

No. 1	Colt's	4	times a minute.
2	Hall's	3.4	
3	Colt's (musket calibre)	3.3	
4	Cochran's	3.2	
5	Leavitt	1.22	

Hackett's and Hall's muskets load at the breech with single charges, but are constructed upon different principles.

The United States standard musket loads at the muzzle.

Colt's and Cochran's load at the breech with many chambered shifting receivers.

The fire with Hackett's, Hall's, and the United States standard, was continuous and at equal intervals.

Colt's and Cochran's require from 2′ to 2′ 10″ to load one receiver, (with the advantage too of convenient ground,) and from 25″ to 30″ to discharge it.

In the experiment to determine comparitive celerity, the parties having been placed upon the ground, with each a target, were required to deliver the greatest practicable number of fires in a given time, combining celerity and accuracy; Hackett's, Hall's, and the United States musket being supplied with cartridges, Colt's and Cochran's with loose ammunition, all unloaded, and were required to commence loading at the word "fire."

The board adopted this mode in order to place the respective weapons upon an equality, and in such circumstances as would ordinarily occur, in regard to fire, in actual service.

II. THE EXTENT OF RECOIL.

As the arms of Hall, Hackett, Colt, and Cochran, are all loaded at the breech, they allow the use of a ball of greater diameter than the chase of the barrel, which causes it to slug or fit perfectly tight, thus destroying all windage or escape of the explosive force, and consequently requiring a diminished charge of powder to produce results equal to those acquired with increased charges in the gun of the ordinary kind; consequently, the recoil is less than that of a gun of the same calibre loaded at the muzzle, in which an allowance of windage is indispensable to the introduction of its charge. The recoil is not sufficient in any of them to produce any great inconvenience in service, and may be assumed as being about equal in either kind of arms that load at the breech.

III. THE EFFICIENCY OF FIRE.

From the experiments made, it appears that, for guns of the large calibre, the penetration (in the same target) of those arms loading at the breech, provided they have the correct charge of powder, is greater than those loading at the muzzle. This effect results from the fact stated in the preceding number, viz. the ball fitting exactly, there remains no windage; consequently, the whole force of the charge acts on the ball, and produces a greater penetration.

The following statement shows these results:

Experiments made at West Point, on the 19th of June, 1837. Target of well seasoned white oak.

Musket.	Charge of powder.	Distance from target.	Penetration.	Penetration into a package of 1000 sheets of cartridge paper.
	Grains.	*Feet.*	*Inches.*	
United States -	134	10	2.3	770 sheets No. 2, and 653 sheets No. 1.
Hall's - -	110	10	2.175	386 sheets No. 2, 80 grains charge.
Colt's - -	134	10	2.640	481 No. 2, 80 grains; 717 No. 1, 100 grains.
Colt's - -	110	10	2.750	
Colt's - -	100	10	3	
Cochran's - -	80	10	1.650	

The chambers of Cochran's musket were not capable of containing over 80 grains of powder each.

NOTE.—It will be observed, in the case of Colt's weapon, that a charge of
134 grains gave 2.64 inches penetration;
110 grains gave 2.75 inches penetration;
100 grains gave 3 inches penetration;
which is accounted for by the admitted fact that *over* charges give *diminished* velocities.

IV. INCONVENIENCE FROM HEATED BARRELS.

Guns that receive their charges at the breech have been found to acquire a less degree of heat from a continuous course of discharges than the common arm, from the circumstance of their admitting, during the loading process, a free circulation of air through the barrels.

The temperature of the interior of the several barrels was determined by the introduction of a thermometer, that indicated a very uniform degree immediately after firing for a given period. In the experiment alluded to the time was 10'.

V. CAPACITY OF BEING USED AS A RIFLE.

In constrained positions, such as are not uncommon to light troops, the experiments with Hall's rifles, at Fort Monroe, in 1826, when in the hands of troops, fully prove that this arm is admirably adapted to this service and that of mounted corps, in consequence of the convenience in loading and facility of discharging when on horseback.

The many-chambered arms, on the contrary, requiring a variety of appendages to aid in charging them, and the application of considerable manual force in placing the charge in the cylinders, cannot be loaded, either in constrained positions or on horseback, without inconvenience; and it is consequently believed that Hall's rifle and Hackett's gun are the only descriptions of arms loading at the breech that can be considered as suitable for the service of light troops, either on foot or mounted. These remarks might not be applicable to the many-chambered guns, could it be supposed that they would at all times be supplied with a number of loaded

cylinders, [receivers;] but this is not to be admitted as being practicable at all times and in all situations.

VI. THE SIMPLICITY AND CHEAPNESS OF CONSTRUCTION.

The attainment of simplicity in the construction of fire-arms is unquestionably of the first importance, in order that those who are to use them may readily comprehend their principles and utility. In the examination of Hall's guns nothing appears complicated; on the contrary, one of their greatest merits consists in the simplicity of their component parts, and the absence of the various appendages [equipments] which are attendant upon, and indispensable to, the use and service of the arms of Colt and Cochran.

The same may be said of the gun of Baron Hackett, which, in general, possesses many of the features of utility which characterize the arms of Hall, and which is one of the most important conditions that has governed the construction and decided the character of this description of arms. In this character its utility for military purposes mainly and essentially consists. An arm which is complicated in its mechanism and arrangement deranges and perplexes the soldier in its management, requires more than common attention to its care and preservation, and if, perchance, it fail in its operation, which its complexity of construction would necessarily occasion, he loses all confidence in its powers of execution.

The guns of Hall, and apparently of Hackett, presenting in their construction this desired simplicity, are more easily managed, present less accountability to the soldier, are less liable to get out of order, and when they are so are more easily repaired.

The reports of the master armorers, who have been instructed to prepare careful estimates of the cost of each description of arms, are appended to this general report.

See report of Mr. Hall [marked A.]

VII. DURABILITY.

The means of testing the durability of the several descriptions of arms is not within the control of the board. It can only be determined by requiring the inventors to undertake a fatiguing course of firings, greater than some of them could endure, or by placing the arms in the hands of troops and having them exposed to all the incidents and trials of active service.

The experiments with Hall's gun, in 1826, gave results satisfactory with regard to its character for resisting the effects of long firings, and there can be no doubt that the durability of all descriptions of arms will depend greatly upon simplicity and consequent strength of construction.

VIII. SAVING OF AMMUNITION AND APPENDAGES.

A reference to the tabular statements will show that all guns that load at the breech require less powder to produce the same results than guns loading in the ordinary manner.

This peculiarity is accounted for under No. 2, "efficiency of fire," and need not be repeated here.

In the common musket 141 grains of powder constitute the charge for service inclusive of about ten grains used as priming.

Colt's musket, fired with a charge of 100 grains, (being primed with a percussion cap,) gave proof of equal and even superior power of penetration, whence it was determined that that quantity of powder was fully sufficient for the charge of his muskets for service.

The construction of Cochran's musket limited its charge to 80 grains of powder, which was insufficient to impart to his arm a power equal to that possessed by the United States musket with its service charge, or by Colt's musket with a charge of 100 grains; but the reduction of the charge of the latter down to the maximum of Cochran's gave evidence of the possession of equal power by either arm.

These experiments being directed to the attainment of facts in regard to the proper charges to be used in the new description of arms, and likewise with a view to test their relative powers, were conclusive in their results, and prove that in muskets of the same calibre the saving of powder would be, in favor of those that load at the breech, as 100 is to 144; in the one case percussion caps are used and in the other flints, the expense being probably in favor of the use of the latter; and secondly, that (the same principle operating in the different arms of Hall, Hackett, Colt, and Cochran) the same charge would produce the same degree of velocity or penetration.

The inventors of Colt's and Cochran's muskets propose that each soldier should at all times have about his person *five* receivers. Supposing one of these receivers constantly attached to, forming part of, and entering into the weight of the gun, there remain four, weighing,

Colt's each 3 pounds, or the four - - - -	12*lb.*
To which add their charges - - - -	1*lb.* 14*oz.*
Total - - - - - -	13*lb.* 14*oz.*
Cochran's (when increased to hold 100 grains) each 3 pounds 12 ounces, or the four - - - -	15*lb.*
Charges as above - - - - - -	1*lb.* 14*oz.*
Total - - - - - -	16*lb.* 14*oz.*

to supply 35 rounds of ammunition. The same number of rounds of ammunition as five receivers would contain, carried in the ordinary manner, weigh 2 pounds 12 ounces. The increase in the one case being 11 pounds 2 ounces, and in the other 14 pounds 2 ounces, of a substance inconvenient in form and disposition, to the burden of the soldier, ever of necessity too great.

To load the many-chambered guns several implements of a novel and inconvenient form are required, the use and accountability of which would be extremely difficult and oppressive, besides adding still more to the great weight of the appendages already noticed.

In the common musket, and in Hall's and Hackett's, these equipments are not required.

IX. THE NUMBER OF CHARGES WHICH MAY BE CARRIED BY AN INFANTRRY SOLDIER.

A reference to the remarks under No. 8, will exhibit the relative weight of 35 rounds of ammunition for the standard musket and Colt's and Cochran's muskets, by which it will be seen that it would be utterly impracticable for a soldier to carry the very great weight of metal required to contain only a limited number of cartridges.

This is one of the important objections which render the many-chambered arms, in the opinion of the board, altogether unsuited to the wants and exigencies of the service.

The arms of Hall and Hackett, on the contrary, can carry a number of charges always equal to, and rather exceeding, that carried by infantry soldiers in the established cartridge boxes.

X. THE ADVANTAGES WHEN USED AGAINST A CHARGE OF CAVALRY.

In sustaining an attack from cavalry, arms have an advantage in proportion to their capability of keeping up a continuous fire, preserving at the same time their position of defence with the bayonet; the muskets of Hall and Hackett possess this advantage in an eminent degree, being, even during the process of loading, in readiness for personal defence.

This is not the case with the many-chambered guns, in consequence of the necessity that exists for disconnecting their parts for the purpose of charging them.

XI. THE ADVANTAGES WHEN USED BY CAVALRY.

The advantage is believed to be altogether in favor of arms that load at the breech, and with receivers that contain only one charge; such arms being conveniently handled and loaded on horseback, are peculiarly adapted to the cavalry service; and the ball, being larger than the diameter of the barrel, it is not changed from its position in the receiver by the movement of the horse.

The many-chambered arms, for reasons stated under the 5th head of this report, are deemed inapplicable to the service of cavalry.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The various arms under consideration, which have been submitted to the examination and experiments of the board, constitute two classes, viz:

The first class comprises the guns of Hall and Hackett; being arms that load at the breech with single charges.

The second class are "many-chambered" or repeating guns of Colt and Cochran, the breech of which is formed of cylindrical receivers that revolve upon a pivot, and in which are chambers to contain a number of charges which are brought successively in a line with the same barrel.

The first class may be divided into two varieties:

1st. Hackett's gun, the breech of which opening, uncovers the bottom of the bore, into which the charge is inserted in the form of a cartridge; the powder remaining in its paper envelope.

2d. Hall's gun, the *receiver* of which being raised by means of a spring, receives its charge in its upper end, and may be loaded either by means of a flask, or with a prepared cartridge.

The second class also embraces two varieties: the receiver, which contains the chambers for the charges in Cochran's, revolves horizontally on an *arbre* perpendicular to the axis of the bore; while Colt's receiver, having its chambers in the opposite direction to Cochran's, revolves upon an *arbre* parallel to this axis.

As all these arms load at the breech, the advantages of this method are,

of course, common to all, viz: that the ball used may be of a diameter so great as to destroy all windage, and thus cause a greater range, more exactness of fire, and, in consequence of less powder being required by the absence of windage, diminished recoil.

In the first class we may add, to the advantages common to all, that they can be loaded with great facility; and that, for the use of light troops or skirmishers, this property might be frequently useful and important.

In the first variety (Hackett's) the charge is inserted in a cartridge, the powder remaining in its envelope, the remains of which, with the residue of the burnt powder, adhere, after several fires, to the chamber, rendering it difficult to insert the cartridges, and highly probable that the retention of fire, by this mass of the burnt envelopes, might cause explosions on the introduction of a new charge.

In the second variety (Hall's) this inconvenience does not exist, as the powder may be first inserted and surmounted by the ball.

Another inconvenience, common to guns loading at the breech, is, that the deposite of burnt matter which escapes through the joints renders them stiff and difficult to manage.

The guns of the second class have the same disadvantages as to wear and escape of gas, greatly increased by their complication and the danger of explosion of more than one charge at the same time.

Of all the arms submitted to the board, that of Cochran is deemed the most unsafe for military purposes, when subjected to rapid discharges with cylinders [receivers] fully loaded.

The slightest defect in the metal of the receiver would render it highly dangerous both to the bearer and to others in contiguous positions; and that such defects would frequently exist will not be doubted by mechanics whose experience every day convinces them of the many circumstances that serve to prevent a perfect *union* of parts in similar constructions; and even admitting original perfection in this important limb, it is nevertheless liable, from the effects of constant and severe service, to receive fractures or other injuries sufficient to destroy its character for safety, and render it more dangerous to the ranks it is intended to support and defend than to those of the enemy.

One accident of the kind that occurred in our practice of the 19th of June (vide tabular statements) would alone not only impair the confidence of the troops in the ability and power of their arms; but what might be fatal to the reputation of those armed with them, would infuse into their minds such a degree of dread and apprehension of their dangerous qualities, as to render them an unpopular, and consequently almost powerless, weapon of war.

This objection, founded upon an occurrence which our experiments elicited, is deemed conclusive as regards the inaptitude of this arm to the public service; and it is believed that the possession of one quality that detracts from the general merits of an arm, so as to impair the confidence of the soldier in its safety and power, would be fatal to its reputation and consequent utility.

However ingenious in design, therefore, and creditable to the mechanical skill of the inventor, this arm may be, the board is of opinion that it is an unsafe weapon, and unsuited to the use of bodies of men acting in line or in masses.

It is the opinion of the board that the arm of Colt, involving all the

merits, and free from some of the objections to the former, may be very usefully applied in *special* cases; as, in fixed positions in defence of a breach; to cover boarders; in tops of ships; or for personal attack or defence; in a word, under any circumstances where the operation is of a special and brief character, and it be desirable to throw a mass of fire upon a particular point for a limited time. In such or similar situations the entire strength of this arm might be so controlled and managed, as to render it fully available and highly efficient; while its cumbersome and yet necessary appendages, and the massive burden of its parts, would condemn it as wholly unsuited to the wants and exigencies of the service *in the field.*

The board is of the unanimous opinion, that from its complicated character, its liability to accidents (one having occurred in practice on the 21st June) in the hands of soldiers, and other reasons which may be found in this report, that this arm is entirely unsuited to the general purposes of the service.

That the arm of Hackett is one of great merit, possessing in general the qualities of the standard musket, over which it has the advantage of simplicity in construction and manœuvre, and rapidity and certainty of fire, is fully admitted by the board: but it is exposed to the serious objection of a dangerous and doubtful arrangement of its ammunition, in respect to its packing and transportation, and in not admitting of being loaded with loose powder and ball, the necessity of which often results from the casualties of service; and in using only a charge of a peculiar make, to which is attached a percussion primer, dangerous when in connexion with large quantities of ammunition.

As it is highly probable that the objections to this arm may be overcome, and as the weapon has attracted the serious attention and consideration of other and highly military nations, with a view to possess ourselves of the knowledge and use of a weapon which it may hereafter be necessary to oppose to those who shall adopt it, the board is unanimously of opinion that a number, say 100 stands, should be procured of the inventor and proprietor, and placed in the hands of a selected company or corps, by the direction of the Secretary of War, in order to a thorough course of experiments, to embrace all the incidents of campaign service both in respect to the weapon and its ammunition.

From the report of the master armorers, it appears that the standard musket is not susceptible of alteration so as to apply to it the principles of Hackett's gun; and such is the opinion of the board.

The arms now in use in the United States service, it is assumed, possess the power of being used, in skilful hands, with all *requisite* celerity and effect.

The experiments just finished, teach, conclusively, that up to 40 rounds of fire, in reference to the usual characters and incidents of service, they have the advantage in several respects, and equality in others, to those with many chambers.

It is seriously doubted, by experienced soldiers, whether the celerity attainable with our own arms, or with a weapon, which in being loaded requires to be removed from its firing position, is not carried as far as is consistent with steadiness, coolness, and that self possession so very necessary and so difficult of inculcation. It is the opinion of the board that a larger proportion of fire from rapidly repeating guns would be thrown away, than from those that receive but one charge at a time.

In the instances of the arms under consideration, it is believed that even if there be any thing gained by their peculiarities, over the common musket and Hall's guns in point of celerity of discharging, such advantage has been acquired at too great a sacrifice of important and indispensable principles; that in the desire to reach perfection in the construction of the arms, the convenience, physical power, and safety of those who are to use them, has been wholly overlooked; and that their liability to be found out of a *state of preparation* for defence, would detract greatly from their character for efficiency.

The board is confirmed in the opinion, that the arm of Hall is entitled to all the favorable consideration which has heretofore been bestowed upon it by previously constituted boards and commissions.

That the arm requires some modification in its construction, and especially in its equipments, the board is fully convinced; and, with such improvements as are doubtless attainable, the board is of opinion that as an arm for military purposes, it possesses a decided superiority over every other constructed upon the principle of loading at the breech.

The gun of Hackett, with many admirable qualities, is as yet a comparatively untried improvement, but Hall's gun, having successfully undergone the trials of service and the examination and thorough inspection of several competent commissions, has again exhibited to this board powers and excellencies (capable, doubtless, of augmentation) far superior, in the opinion of the board, to those possessed by any other arm which has been subjected to its examination.

The application of the percussion primer to arms for the use of troops has not yet been made with success. They may, with improved means of attaching them to the nipple or cone, be used by light troops in extended order, but the difficulty of placing an object so small as the cap, during the excitement of action, in excessively cold weather, and in dark nights, has prevented this improvement in fire-arms (for sporting purposes) from being generally adopted in any service.

These many-chambered guns use the percussion cap. From 7 to 9 would have to be placed upon each receiver. The liability of these caps, on explosion, to annoy and maim the contiguous men was fully illustrated by the experiments.

Finally, it is the unanimous opinion of the undersigned that the standard arms now in use in the service of the United States, regular and militia, viz: United States musket and rifle, and Hall's musket, rifle, and carbine, with such improvement in *construction* as the latter are susceptible of, combine, in a higher degree, all the requistes of convenience, durablity, simplicity, and effect, than any that have been suggested for the general armament.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN R. FENWICK, *Brig. Gen.*,
President of the Board.

N. TOWSON, *Brig. Gen.*
W. J. WORTH, *Lt. Col.*
R. D. WAINWRIGHT, *Lt. Col. M. Corps.*
R. S. BAKER, *Maj. U. S. Army.*
BENJ. HUGER, *Capt. Ordnance.*
ROBERT ANDERSON, 1*st Lt.* 3*d Art'y.*

J. N. MACOMB, 1*st Lt.* 4*th Art'y.*
Secretary of the Board.

UNITED STATES STANDARD MUSKET.

Date.	Charge. Powder, grains of.	Ball.	Buck shot.	Extent of recoil.	Distance in yards.	Number of fires.	Celerity of fire. Time of firing.	Rate of firing a minute.	Average rate of firing.	Efficiency of fire. Mean penetration. In seasoned white oak.	In musket cartridge paper, sheets of. No. 1.	No. 2.	Number of hits.	Casualties. Snaps.	Flashes.	Remarks.
1837.																
Feb. 27	134	1		-	50	10			-	1.43						
Mar. 1	134	1		-	100	10			-	1.00						
2	134	1		-	150	10			-	0.66						
2	134	1		-	200	10			-	0.55						
6	134	1		-	9	2			-	1.60						
6	134	1		-	300	10			-	0.00		-	-	-	-	1 ball imbedded.
7	134	1		-	56	48	19′	2.53	-	-		-	46	10	1	
8	134	1		33° 20′		8	3′	2.66	-	-		-	-	-	-	In a rain; the time counted from commencing to load.
10	134	1	3	-	9	1		-	2.50	1.15*	of ball		-	-	-	* Mean penetration of buck shot 0.41.
10	134	1	3	-	80	9	3′	3.0	-	-	of ball		8	1	1	16 buck shot out of 27 hit target.
10	134	1		-	400	8		-	-	-	of ball		1	-	-	Splintered edge of target.
14	134	1		-	400	10	4′	2.50	-	-	of ball		-	2		
June 19	134	1		-	3½	9		-	-	2.00	of ball		-	-	-	At West Point, New York.
19	134	1		-	13½	3		-	-	-		770				
21	134	1		-	100	21	10′	2.1	-	-		-	19	6	-	Temperature 926 Fahrenheit.
21	134	1		-	180	23	10′	2.3	-	-		-	5			
21	134	1		-	13½	1		-	-	-	653					
21	134	1		-	3½	1		-	-	2.30						
21	125	1		-	3½	1		-	-	1.60						
21	90	1		-	3½	1		-	-	1.60						

UNITED STATES RIFLE, HARPER'S FERRY.

Feb. 27	92	1		-	50	8		-	-	1.43						
27	92	1		-	100	10		-	-	0.94						
Mar. 1	92	1		-	50	8		-	-	1.43						
2	92	1		-	150	10		-	-	0.65						
2	92	1		-	200	10		-	-	0.29						
6	92	1		-	9	2		-	-	1.80						
6	92	1		-	300	10		-	-	-		-	3	-	-	Balls rebounded; mean indentation 0.200.
June 19	92	1		-	3½	10		-	-	2.10						
21	92	1		-	3½	1		-	-	2.55						
21	92	1		-	13½	1		-	-	-	500					

HALL'S MUSKET, (PERCUSSION LOCK.)

Date.	Charge. Powder, grains of.	Ball.	Buck shot.	Extent of recoil.	Distance in yards.	Number of fires.	Celerity of fire. Time of firing.	Rate of firing a minute.	Average rate of firing.	Efficiency of fire. Mean penetration. In seasoned white oak.	In musket cartridge paper, sheets of. No. 1.	No. 2.	Number of hits.	Casualties. Snaps.	Flashes.	Remarks.
1837.											*Sheets.*					
Feb. 27	86	1		–	50	10		–	–	0.83						
Mar. 1	86	1		–	100	10		–	–	0.34						
2	82	1		–	150	10		–	–	0.07						
2	82	1		–	200	10		–	–	0.00			3	–	–	1 ball imbedded.
6	82	1		–	9	2		–	–	0.85						
June 19	110	1		–	3¼	4		–	–	1.80			–	–	–	Fired without patches.
19	110	1		–	3¼	2		–	–	2.17	–		–	–	–	Fired with patches.
19	80	1		–	13¼	3		–	–	–		386				
HALL'S MUSKET, (FLINT.)																
June 19	100	1		–	3¼	10		–	–	1.07	–		–	–	6	
19	100	1		–	100	20	10′	2.0	3.5	–	–		17			
22	100	1		–		10	2′	5.0								
HALL'S RIFLE.																
Feb. 27	70	1		–	50	8		–	–	0.63						
Mar. 1	70	1		–	100	10		–	–	0.93						
2	70	1		–	150	10		–	–	0.40	–		7			
2	70	1		–	200	10		–	–	0.00	–		3	–	–	2 balls imbedded.
6	70	1		–	9	2		–	–	1.70						
6	70	1		–	300	10		–	3.56	–	–		1	–	–	Slight indental'n.
8	70	1		9° 17′		8	4′30″		–	–	–		–	–	–	The recruit did not understand the use of flask.
9	70	1		–	100	50	21′5″	2.37	–	–	–		43	6		
June 19	70	1		–	3¼	10		–	–	1.12	–		–	–	–	West Point.
21	70	1		–	180	34	10′	3.40	–	–	–		7	–	–	Temperature 152° Fahrenheit.
COCHRAN'S SMALL RIFLE.																
Feb. 27	36	1		–	50	10		–	–	0.56						
Mar. 1	36	1		–	100	10		–	–	0.51						
2	35	1		–	150	8		–	–	0.20	–		–	–	5	
2	35	1		–	200	10		–	3.02	0.14						
6	35	1		–	9	2		–	–	1.13						
8	35	1		2° 50″		8	2′ 30″	3.20								
9	35	1		–	100	50	17′35″	2.85	–	–	–		37	–	–	Cylinder empty at the commencement of the time.

COCHRAN'S CARBINE.

Date.	Charge. Powder, grains of.	Ball.	Buck shot.	Extent of recoil.	Distance in yards.	Number of fires.	Celerity of fire. Time of firing.	Rate of firing a minute.	Average rate of firing.	Efficiency of fire. Mean penetration. In seasoned white oak.	In musket cartridge paper, sheets of. No. 1.	No. 2.	Number of hits.	Casualties. Snaps.	Flashes.	Remarks.
1837.												*Sheets.*				
Feb. 27	38	1		–	50	10	–	–	–	0.61	–		–	–	–	Rifle powder.
Mar. 1	38	1		–	100	10	–	–	–	0.27	–		–			
2	45	1		–	150	10	–	–	–	0.19	–		6			
2	45	1		–	200	10	–	–	–	0.02	–		4			
6	45	1		–	9	2	–	–	2.66	0.90						
7	45	1		–	100	100	30′ 6″	3.3	–	–	–		95			
14	45	1		–	400	9	3′ 50″	2.03	–	–	–		–	–	–	50″ to fire; 3′ to load cylinder.

COCHRAN'S MUSKET.

June 19	72	1		–	3½	4	–		–	1.76	–		–	–	–	13 fragments of caps and lead in the blindages.
19	72	1		–	100	16	10′	1.6	–	–	–		–	10	–	1 *lateral discharge.*
19	80	1		–	13½	3	–		2.30	–	–	454	–	–	–	Without patches.
19	80	1		–	13½	3	–		–	–	–	154	–	–	–	With patches.
19	80	1		–	3½	4	–		–	1.65						
21	80	1		–	180	30	10′	3.0	–	–	–		7	2	–	122° Fah. temperature of barrel after firing.

COLT'S SMALL RIFLE.

Mar. 1	30	1		–	50	8	–		–	0.60	–		–	–	–	Rifle powder.
1	30	1		–	100	10	–		–	0 36						
2	36	1		–	150	7	–		–	0.3	–		5			
2	36	1		–	200	7	–		–	0.0	–		–	–	–	1 ball imbedded.
6	36	1		–	9	2	–		–	0.97						
7	36	1		–	56	109	39′	2.79	3.29	–	–		104	4	–	Commenced with cylinders empty to count the time.
8	36	1	5° 30′		8		3′ 20″	2.4	–	–	–		–	3		
9	36	1	–		100	50	12½′	4.0	–	–	–		–	2		
14	36	1	–		8		2′	4.0	–	–	–		–	–	–	30″ to fire 8 times, 1′ 30″ to load.

COLT'S MUSKET.

June 19	134	1		–	3½	6	–		–	2.64						
19	110	1		–	3½	4	–		–	2.75						
19	80	1		–	13½	3	–		–	–	–	481				
21	100	1		–	100	31	10′	3.1	2.86	–	–		22	1		
21	100	1		–	13½	1	–		–	–	717					
21	80	1		–	180	26	10′	2.6	–	–	–		9	–	–	Temp. 120° Fah.
21	100	1		–	3½	2	–		–	3.0						

COLT'S RIFLE, (MUSKET CALIBRE.)

Date.	Charge. Powder, grains of.	Ball.	Buck shot.	Extent of recoil.	Distance in yards.	Number of fires.	Celerity of fire. Time of firing.	Rate of firing a minute.	Average rate of firing.	Efficiency of fire. Mean penetration. In seasoned white oak.	In musket cartridge paper, sheets of. No. 1.	No. 2.	Number of hits.	Casualities. Snaps.	Flashes.	Remarks.
1837.												*Sheets.*				
June 21	100	1		–	180	28	10′	2.8	–	–	–		8	2	–	*Two discharges at a time* in each volley!
21	100	1		–	3¼	1	–		2.8	1.6						

COLT'S CARBINE, (MUSKET CALIBRE.)

June 21	100	1		–	100	33	10′	3.3	–	–	–	–	30			
21	80	1		–	13¼	1	–		3.3	–	672					
21	72	1		–	3¼	1	–		–	1.57						

BARON HACKETT'S GUN, (MUSKET CALIBRE.)

Feb. 27	73	1		–	50	8	–		–	0.81						
Mar. 1	73	1		–	100	10	–		–	0.46						
2	73	1		–	150	10	–		–	0.32						
2	73	1		–	200	10	–		–	0.10						
6	73	1		–	9	2	–		–	0.82						
6	73	1		–	300	10	–		–	–	–		1	–	–	An indentation of 0.300 inches.
7	73	1		–	56	99	39′30″	2.5	–	–	–		82	11	–	59 disch'ges were made in 15′. Cartridge inserted too far 13 times during the firing.
8	73	1		9° 15′		8	1′50″	4.37	–	–	–		–	–	–	Fired in a *rain*.
9	73	1		–	100	50	14′50″	3.5	–	–	–		24	3		
10	144	1	3	–	9	1	–		3.96	1.35	–		–	–	–	Buck shot; mean penetrat'n 0.700.
10	85	1		–	200	5	–		–	–	–		1	–	–	Ball rebounded.
10	73	1		–	300	5	–		–	–	–		1	–	–	Indentation 0.200.
10	144	1		–	400	1	–		–	0.30	–		1			
10	73	1	3	–	80	8	2′15″	3.60	–	–	–		6	2	–	10 buck shot of 18 struck the target.
14	73	1		–	400	10	2′	5.0								
14	73	1		–	300	10	2′5″	4.8	–	–	–		2			

LEAVITT'S CARBINE.

Mar. 1	50	1		–	50	5	–		–	0.35	–		5			
1	50	1		–	100	5	–		–	0.49						
2	50	1		–	150	5	–		–	0.30	–		3			
2	50	1		–	200	5	–		–	0.112	–		4			

FISHER'S GUN.

Mar. 8	50	1		–		8	6′30″	1.22	1.22	–	–		–	–	–	In the rain.

A.

WEST POINT, *June 24*, 1837.

SIR: Having attended as carefully as is practicable to the duties enjoined upon me in the order of the board over which you preside, dated 19th of the present month, I, with due deference, submit the following statements.

Very respectfully, I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN H. HALL.

Gen. J. R. FENWICK.

In estimating the cost of construction of the different arms presented to us, it is necessary to consider the number to be made *annually*, and the *extent* of the works for manufacturing them in; because the expense of fabrication will be much affected by each of these circumstances. It would be less when many arms are made in the same period of time than when but few; a workman can do more, in the same time, when continuing upon the same kind of job, than when obliged to change often from one kind of work to another, as would be the case when making but few arms in a year.

There is a class of expenses incurred in a manufactory, the amount of which is greatly influenced by the *extent* of manufacturing to which it is adapted; which expenses will be nearly similar, and to the same amount, whether much work is performed and many arms are made in each year, or but few. Such are the expenses arising from the decay of the buildings: of the forebays and the water-wheels, &c.; the expenses of direction or superintendence; clerks' duties; watchmen; laborers to keep the shops in good order; to supply the stoves with fuel in cold weather, &c. My estimates have been made on the supposition of manufacturing three thousand arms of the same kind in each year.

The effect on the cost of the different kinds of the arms, which would be produced by making a smaller number of them in such an establishment, is exhibited in the paper numbered 4, by adding to the direct expenses on different parcels of them, viz: 1,000, 2,000, and 3,000 per year, the amount of the incidental ones annually incurred. From which it appears that Mr. Colt's muskets, without a bayonet, might be made in any quantities at the rate of 3,000 per year, at $19 03 each;

The fusil Robert, with a bayonet, at the rate of $14 36 each;

Mr. Cochran's musket at $19 10 each, without a bayonet.

EXHIBIT of incidental expenditures, such as would be incurred in an establishment for making three thousand arms per year, and their effect on the cost of the arms when made in different parcels annually, viz: 1,000 *per year*, 2,000 *per year, and* 3,000 *per year.*

Superintendence or direction - - - - -	$1,500 00
Inspection - - - - - - - -	1,400 00
Clerk's services - - - - - - -	800 00
Assistant - - - - - - - -	400 00
Stationery - - - - - - - -	50 00

Watchmen	$600 00
Laborers	600 00
Fuel	600 00
Oil and tallow for lubricating water-wheel journals, and those of machines	100 00
Repairs of buildings, and forebays, and water-wheels, including deterioration of property	950 00
	$7,000 00
Estimated cost of direct expenses in making 1,000 of Mr. Colt's muskets in one year	$16,520 00
Incidental expenses of one year	7,000 00
Total cost of 1,000 of Mr. Colt's muskets	$23,520 00
Which is equal to $23 52 for each.	
Cost of 2,000 of them, direct expenses	$33,040 00
Incidental expenses	7,000 00
Total cost of 2,000	$40,040 00
Which is for 1,000	20,020 00
Equal to $20 02 for each.	
Estimated cost of direct expenses for 3,000 of Mr. Colt's muskets	$49,560 00
Incidental expenses	7,000 00
Total for making 3,000 in one year	$56,560 00
Which is for 1,000	18,853 00
Or, $18 $85\frac{3}{1}{}_{6}$ each.	
Direct expenses for fusil Robert for 1,000 in one year	$12,030 00
Incidental expenses	7,000 00
Total for making 1,000 in one year	$19,030 00
Or, $19 03 for each.	
Direct expenses for fusil Rob ert, made at the rate of 2,000 in one year	$24,060 00
Incidental expenses	7,000 00
Total for 2,000 of the arms	$31,060 00
Which is for 1,000 of them	15,530 00
Or, $15 53 for each.	
Direct expenses for fusil Robert made at the rate of 3,000 per year	$36,090 00
Incidental expenses	7,000 00
Total for 3,000	$43,090 00
Which for 1,000 is	14,303 00
Or, $14 $36\frac{1}{3}$ for each.	

Direct expenses for 1,000 of Mr. Cochran's muskets, in one year	$16,770 00
Incidental expenses	7,000 00
Total expenses for 1,000 in one year	$23,770 00
Or, $23 77 for each	
Estimated cost of direct expenses for 2,000 of Mr. Cochran's muskets, made at that rate per year	$33,540 00
Incidental expenses	7,000 00
Total for 2,000	$40,540 00
Which is for 1,000	20,270 00
Or, $20 27 for each.	
Direct expenses for 3,000 of Mr. Cochran's muskets made in one year	$50,310 00
Incidental expenses	7,000 00
Total for 3,000 of the arms	$57,310 00
Which for 1,000 is	19,103⅓ 00
Or, $19 10⅓ each.	

WEST POINT, *June* 24, 1837.

SIR: Subjoined is a list of the appendages of Mr. Cochran's musket, and an estimate of the cost of making each of their component parts.

Also, a list of the appendages to Mr. Colt's musket, and an estimate of expense of making each of their component parts, so far as I could examine them separately. Those of the ammunition flask could not be separated; they have, therefore, neither been separately mentioned nor separately estimated.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN H. HALL.

Gen. J. R. FENWICK.

Appendages to Mr. Cochran's musket.

1 Powder-flask	$1 50
1 Leather pouch	1 10
1 Leather belt	40
2 Leather strap	25
2 Small mallets	25
1 Bullet-mould	40
	$3 90

Appendages to Mr. Coll's musket.

1	Belt	$0 75
5	Hooks	50
2	Supports	50
5	Rivet-plates	50
1	Buckle	10
	Uniting the whole	50
		$2 85
1	Cartridge-box	$2 00
1	Ammunition-flask	$3 00

Lever, consisting of the following parts:

1	Fulcrum	$0 6
1	Screw-driver	8
1	Screw-driver for cones	12
1	Pick	8
1	Cap, (brass)	8
		$0 42

Primer, consisting of the following parts:

1	Box	$0 50
2	Covers	20
2	Springs	12
2	Spring-screws	3
2	Circular plates or buttons	20
2	Cap-pushers	14
2	Coiled springs	20
1	Main-axis-screw	3
2	Axis or hinge-rivets	4
2	Palls or spring-catches	12
2	Pall-screws	3
2	Pivot-lid-catches	6
		$1 67
	Uniting all the parts	30
	Total	$1 97

Recapitulation of appendages to Mr. Coll's musket.

Belt	$2 85
Cartridge-box	2 00

Flask - - - - - - -	$3 00
Lever - - - - - - -	42
Primer - - - - - - -	1 97
	$10 24

WEST POINT, *June* 24, 1837.

SIR: Subjoined I present a list of the appendages to the Hall's musket, and the cost of each.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN H. HALL.

Gen. J. R. FENWICK.

Appendages to Mr. Hall's musket.

1 Cartridge-box, for containing either ball or buck-shot cartridges, or both - - - - - - -	$1 50
1 Screw-driver and picker - - - - -	9
1 Primer - - - - - - -	2 25
1 Wiper - - - - - - -	20
	$4 04

ESTIMATE

OF

THE COST OF THE DIFFERENT SMALL ARMS,

SUBMITTED

TO THE BOARD FOR THEIR EXAMINATION.

Estimate of the cost, &c., of the fusil Robert, or Baron Hackett's gun.

No. of parts.	Component parts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Mills.
5	Barrel, with the bayonet, rear, and igniting-stud and screws	3	77	6.5
2	Trunnion-plates		65	6.2
2	Trunnion-plate-screws		2	7.5
2	Trunnion-screws		5	6.8
2	Washers for trunnion-screws, (copper)		1	2.6
1	Stock-bar for friction roller		16	0.8
2	Friction roller, and axis-pin for stock		1	3.7
2	Lever with copper plug		49	1.6
1	Guide or rear sight for lever		12	7.6
2	Screws for guide		3	8.1
2	Catch for lever with stock-pin		31	1.6
1	Catch-spring		7	5.7
1	Screw for catch or axis		1	9
1	Hammer or spring for igniting		25	5.9
1	Screw for hammer		1	8.8
1	Guard-plate		63	4.3
1	Guard-bow, (brass)		44	4.1
1	Screw for guard-bow and trigger		2	8.6
3	Guard-screws for screwing to the barrel		6	7.2
1	Guard-screw, (wood)		1	6.8
1	Trigger, (acts, also, as sear and spring)		25	2
1	Breech-plate		24	7
2	Breech-plate-screws		4	2.5
1	Top-band, (brass)		16	2.5
1	Sight for top-band, with screws		1	9.2
1	Screw-driver for top-band		8	8.5
1	Screw for screw-driver		2	7.3
1	Middle band, (brass)		13	2.7
1	Lower band, (brass)		8	9.7
4	Swivels, (2,) and rivetting wires, (2)		12	9.9
2	Side-plate, (brass)		3	8.1
1	Side-screw		2	2.6

ESTIMATE—Continued.

No. of parts.	Component parts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Mills.
3	Band-springs, (steel)		13	9.4
1	Safety-plate, (brass)		39	1.3
11	Screws for safety-plate, (for wood)		9	7.3
1	Bayonet	1	18	1.4
1	Stock	1	22	8.4
68		11	52	3.2
	Case-hardening, polishing, and finishing		66	4.2
	Pay of officers, clerks, inspectors, machinist, jobbers, &c.	1	50	6
		13	69	3.4
	Cost of one gun if 5,000 are manufactured	13	69	3.4
	10,000 are manufactured	12	88	5.5
	20,000 are manufactured	12	47	6.8
	40,000 are manufactured	12	27	2.4
	50,000 are manufactured	12	23	1.5
	Dimensions and weight.	Feet.	Inches.	
	Length of musket without bayonet	4	$10\frac{1}{8}$	
	Length of musket from breech to point of bayonet	5	$6\frac{3}{8}$	
	Length of stock	4	$7\frac{1}{8}$	
	Length of barrel		$42\frac{37}{100}$	
	Diameter of caliber at muzzle		$\frac{65}{100}$ to $\frac{66}{100}$	
	Diameter of chamber at breech		$\frac{72}{100}$ to $\frac{73}{100}$	
	Length of the chamber about		$2\frac{3}{10}$	
	Whole length of the bayonet		$19\frac{1}{4}$	
		Pounds.	Ounces.	
	Weight of musket, with bayonet	10	12	
	Weight of barrel, with stud	4	11	
	Weight of bayonet, with half-socket		$10\frac{1}{4}$	

REMARKS.

In Baron Hackett's gun there is no rod. It is thought that though the rod is unnecessary in loading, it is indispensable in washing or cleaning the barrel. No estimate has been made for it. If it should be thought necessary to add the rod, its cost is about that of the common musket; also, if the rod should be added, there would be some additional expense in stocking, and some in altering the top-band.

The whole number of parts will be found in the column of parts.

Estimate of the cost, &c., of Samuel Colt's musket, without bayonet or rod.

No. of parts.	Component parts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Mills.
3	Barrels, with base, guide, and front sight	5	50	1.2
1	Belt-hook		1	9.8
1	Stud for lever-axis		1	9.2
1	Receiver with six chambers	3	50	3.1
6	Cones or vents for receiver		50	7.6
1	Axis with shield-head	2	09	5.7
1	Index or rutchet		31	9.7
1	Index stay		6	0.1
1	Index stay-screw		2	0.9
1	Hand for index		9	3.6
1	Key for connecting barrel with axis		6	7.9
1	Key-screw or stop for key		1	2
1	Tang		27	5
3	Tang-screw for iron		5	1.4
1	Tang-screw for wood		2	0.1
1	Lock-plate	2	36	3.1
2	Lock-plate screws		3	7.1
1	Bolt for stop to receiver		7	8.2
1	Bolt-spring		5	0.2
1	Bolt-spring-screw		1	7.6
1	Lever for cocking		25	0.9
1	Screw for lever		1	2.3
1	Spring for lever		8	7.2
1	Screw for lever-spring		1	4.7
1	Hand-spring		5	2.9
1	Hand-spring-screw		1	6.2
1	Hammer		35	6.3
1	Hammer-screw-axis		2	1.4
1	Hammer-link		5	1.9
1	Hammer-link-screw		1	9.4
1	Hammer-spring		18	6
1	Hammer-spring-screw		1	9.6
1	Trigger		8	8.5
1	Trigger-screw-axis		2	1.4
1	Trigger-spring		4	2.4
1	Trigger-spring-screw		1	3
1	Guard for trigger		32	0
2	Guard-screws for iron		2	7
2	Rivets			1.2
1	Breech-plate		24	8
2	Breech-plate-screws		4	3.1
1	Stock		92	5.7
55		17	93	2.6
	Case hardening, polishing, and finishing		79	5.3
	Pay of officers, clerks, inspectors, machinist, jobbers, &c.	1	50	6
		20	23	3.9

ESTIMATE—Continued.

	Dolls.	Cts.	Mills.
Cost of one gun if 5,000 are manufactured	20	23	3.9
10,000 are manufactured	19	13	2.1
20,000 are manufactured	18	66	1.7
40,000 are manufactured	18	42	6.5
50,000 are manufactured	18	37	9.5

Dimensions and weight.	Feet.	Inches.
Length of the musket	5	$\frac{1}{8}$
Length of the stock		$14\frac{7}{8}$
Length of the barrel		42
Diameter of caliber at muzzle and breech		$\frac{63}{100}$ to $\frac{64}{100}$
Length of receiver with seven chambers		$3\frac{3}{4}$
Diameter of chambers		$\frac{64}{100}$
Depth of chambers		3
Greatest exterior diameter of receiver		$3\frac{1}{8}$

	Pounds.	Ounces.
Weight of musket	15	5
Weight of barrel	5	11
Weight of receiver with seven chambers	4	0

REMARKS.

As it appeared to be the opinion of the board that a receiver with six chambers would be preferable to one with seven, in order to reduce the weight of the musket; and preferable, also, to reduce the length of the chambers so as to contain a charge of 100 grains of powder, with ball, &c.; and to reduce the length of the barrel so as to make its length correspond with the length of the present musket barrel, viz. 42 inches; the foregoing estimate has been predicated on these modifications, all of which would reduce the weight of the musket from 15lb. 5oz. to 13lb. 9oz.

These modifications would also tend to reduce the cost of the musket, if the receiver were made of iron. But as it appeared to be the general opinion (which opinion is concurred in) that a receiver made of cast steel would be preferable to one made of iron, in consequence of iron being more liable to have flaws and seams than cast steel, and these flaws and seams having a tendency to render the charges liable to ignite each other from the interior of the caliber, (an instance of which is thought to have occurred in the examination at West Point,) it is proper to remark that the cost of the cast steel will probably rather more than counterbalance the reduction of cost by the above named modifications, though it will not materially add to the cost of the gun.

In the foregoing estimate, wrought iron has been substituted for malleable iron in all the components made of malleable iron in Colt's musket, which will make an additional item in the cost of the manufacture.

Colt's gun has neither bayonet nor rod. It is thought that though the

rod is unnecessary in loading, it is indispensable in washing or cleaning the barrel. No estimate has been made for these parts. If it should be thought necessary to add them, their cost will be about the same as that of the bayonet and rod of the musket.

In consequence of Mr. Colt's statement that, although the guide or rear sight on the gun presented for examination was made of three parts, it was not intended so for the ordinary manufacture of the musket, as it would be more expensive than that of the ordinary kind, in this estimate the guide has been called but one part, and corresponds with the one which was on the rifle and carbine he had with him.

The lock-plate, also, was called but one part, although the plate on the gun presented for examination consisted of two parts—these being a sort of scroll on the tang. This was mere fancy, and not intended as a model for ordinary manufacture of the musket.

The form of the present musket breech-plate was substituted for the one presented for examination, on account of its being less expensive in the manufacture; and, consequently, two screws were estimated instead of three.

As it seemed to be the opinion that a receiver with six chambers would be preferable to one with seven, as noticed above, only six cones were estimated for.

If wrought iron were substituted for malleable iron, it would be found economical to make the guard of two pieces; in this estimate it has been considered as one part; but two rivets have been added to the number of pieces.

The number of parts in the gun presented for examination was	58
The number of parts intended to be examined - - -	55
The number of parts actually estimated, by dispensing with one cone and one breech-plate-screw, and by adding two rivets, amounted to - - - - - - - -	55

Although the guide has been estimated, it is considered to be of no more use to Colt's gun than it would be to the common musket, but rather an inconvenience in the manual exercise.

Estimate of the cost, &c., of Mr. Cochran's musket, without bayonet or rod.

No. of parts.	Component parts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Mills.
2	Barrel, with front sight - - - -	2	96	7.5
1	Receiver - - - - - -	2	26	4.6
7	Cones - - - - - -		59	4.6
1	Axis for receiver - - - - -		5	9.6
1	Lock or guard-plate - - - -	1	79	8.3
1	Lock or guard-plate-screw - - - -		2	4.1
1	Strap for capping over receiver and axis - -		35	9.1
1	Strap-axis, or pin - - - - -		1	6.7

ESTIMATE—Continued.

No. of parts.	Component parts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Mills.
1	Stop-bolt		7	2.3
1	Stop-bolt-axis, or pin			1
1	Stop-bolt-spring		3	6
1	Stop-bolt spring-screw		1	9.6
	Thumb-piece. (This was made of *lectrum*, but is estimated as if made of iron, and in one piece with the bolt.)			
1	Hammer		24	4.6
1	Hammer-screw		2	0.7
1	Hammer-spring		13	9.2
1	Hammer-spring-screw		1	9.7
1	Hammer-lifting-spring		4	0.7
1	Hammer-lifting-spring-screw		1	8.1
1	Sear, (acts as a trigger)		18	0.2
1	Sear-axis-pin		1	2.1
1	Sear-spring		2	3.4
1	Sear-spring screw		1	4.4
1	Tang-screw		1	9.7
1	Socket for tang-screw		3	3.5
1	Socket-pin			2.9
1	Separater, (brass)		17	0.5
2	Separater-screws		3	1.2
1	Separater-washer, (copper)		4	2.9
2	Separater-washer-pins, (wires)			7.5
1	Fence		15	0.7
2	Fence-screws, (for wood)		3	3.6
1	Supporter, (brass)		24	2.1
1	Supporter-screw—catch for strap		3	4.4
1	Supporter-screw, (for wood)		1	9.3
1	Breech-plate		24	8
2	Breech-plate-screws		4	3.1
1	Stock		87	1.9
48		10	87	7.8
	Case-hardening, polishing, and finishing		67	7.
	Pay of officers, inspectors, clerks, machinist, jobbers, &c.	1	50	6
		13	06	0.8
	Cost of one gun if 5,000 are manufactured	13	06	0.8
	10,000 are manufactured	12	26	2.5
	20,000 are manufactured	11	86	3.7
	40,000 are manufactured	11	66	4.3
	50,000 are manufactured	11	62	4.5

ESTIMATE—Continued.

Dimensions and weight.	Feet. Inches.
Length of the musket - - - - -	4 $7\frac{1}{8}$
Length of the stock - - - - -	$15\frac{1}{4}$
Length of the barrel - - - - -	$36\frac{1}{2}$
Diameter of caliber at muzzle - - - -	$\frac{67}{100}$ to $\frac{69}{100}$
Exterior diameter of the receiver with seven chambers -	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Thickness of receiver, about - - - -	$\frac{15}{16}$
Diameter of receiver about edge - - -	$\frac{99}{100}$
Diameter of receiver at bottom - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$
	Pounds. Ounces.
Weight of musket - - - - -	11 14
Weight of barrel - - - - -	3 3
Weight of receiver - - - - -	3 1

REMARKS.

In this estimate, wrought iron has been substituted for malleable iron in all of those components made of malleable iron in Cochran's musket, which will tend rather to increase the cost of the gun.

The form of the common musket breech-plate was substituted for the one presented for examination, on account of its being less expensive to manufacture; and consequently two screws were estimated instead of three.

The stop-bolt consisted of two parts, in consequence of the thumb-piece being made of lectrum; but as this might be more economically made of iron, in one piece with the bolt, they have been estimated as one part.

Cochran's musket, also, has neither bayonet nor rod. It is thought that though the rod is unnecessary in loading, it is indispensable in washing or cleaning the barrel. No estimate has been made for these parts. If it is thought necessary to add them, their cost will be about the same as that of the bayonet and rod of the common musket.

The number of parts in Cochran's musket was - - - 50

The number of parts estimated, by dispensing with the thumb-piece and breech-plate-screw, amounts to - - - 48

GENERAL REMARKS.

As there might, at first sight, appear too great a discrepancy in the cost of some of the screws of nearly the same size, it is thought proper to remark, that, when the same tools would answer for various classes of screws, the cost of these tools has been thrown wholly or in part upon the first of these classes of screws estimated.

If arms were manufactured of the foregoing pattern, there might be an improvement made in the uniformity of the screws, which would tend to cheapen, as well as equalize, the cost of fabrication.

BENJAMIN MOOR.

HARPER'S FERRY, *July* 22, 1837.

REPORT

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 17th February, 1837, on the subject of the bursting of cannon at Major Clarke's foundry, in July, 1833, and August, 1834.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1837.
Read, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
September 19, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a report of the Colonel of Ordnance in answer to a resolution of the Senate of the 17th of February, 1837, on the subject of the bursting of cannon at Major Clarke's foundry, in July, 1833, and August, 1834.

Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. R. M. JOHNSON,
President of the Senate.

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
Washington, July 13, 1837.

SIR: In obedience to your orders, and in conformity to the resolution of the Senate of the 17th of February, 1837, directing that the facts concerning the bursting of 16 cannon at Major Clarke's foundry, in July, 1833, and August, 1834, be reported, I have the honor to report:

First. The facts concerning the bursting of the 7 guns on the 18th July, 1833, as follows:

Agreeably to orders from the Ordnance Department, the inspectors of cannon (Lt. Col. W. J. Worth and his Assistant, Lt. John Childe) being at the Bellona foundry on the 18th July, 1833, in presence of Major Clarke, fully explained to him the regulations for proving cannon, informing him at the same time that if he had any objections to them, or to the manner of administering them, the inspectors would delay operations until further orders from the department could be received. The inspectors were

permitted to proceed, and Major Clarke was requested to be present, and was present, at the proving of the powder, the weighing of the charges, and at the loading and discharging of the guns.

It should here be premised, that, previous to this inspection of the 18th July, 1833, Col. Worth and his assistant had made two inspections at the West Point foundry, two at the Pittsburg foundry, and one at the Columbian foundry in Georgetown, in which they had examined 118 guns, 9 of which burst in proving at the Pittsburg foundry. The metal of these bursted guns was afterwards admitted by the founders to be objectionable, though they evidently were not aware of it until after the proof. (For the remarks of the founders on this subject see letter of Messrs. McClurg, Wade & Co.)

The guns (32-pounders) of the inspection of July, 1833, were charged with powder and ball according to the following tabular statement, the details of which are in conformity with the regulations of the 29th November, 1832, which governed at that time.

No. of gun.	Proof range of powder for 1st charges.	First charges. (powder.)		Proof range of powder for 2d charges.	Second charges. (powder.)		Number burst.		Remarks.
	Yards.	lbs.	oz.	Yards.	lbs.	oz.	1st fire.	2d fire.	
257	268	18	3	269	13	10			*Extract from the report of the inspectors of July, 1833, marked "B."*
258	268	18	3	269	13	10			
259	267	18	5	269	13	10			
260	266	18	6	249	14	11			
261	238	20	6	255	14	6			"These guns were proved with Dupont powder; the charges regulated in strict conformity with tables furnished by the Ordnance Department. 20 barrels of proving powder were recently forwarded to Bellona from Frankford arsenal, where it had been carefully proved by the standard eprouvette. The remainder, about 7 barrels, was drawn from the magazine at Bellona, and carefully reproved immediately before use. It will be perceived that, generally, the guns conform in measurement very closely to the established patterns. Seven guns burst in proof, six at the first, and one at the second discharge. In several instances, the evidence was very conclusive that the breaking had been caused or accelerated by the breaking and wedging of the shot. Two shot and two wads were
262	268	18	3	269	13	10			
263	238	20	6	249	14	11			
264	266	18	6	249	14	11			
265	252	19	14	269	13	10			
266	266	18	6	249	14	11			
267	266	18	6	249	14	11			
268	238	20	6	261	14	2			
269	268	18	3	249	14	11			
270	238	20	6	269	13	10			
271	266	18	6	268	13	10			
272	248	19	11	257	14	5			
273	268	18	3	269	13	10			
274	248	19	11	269	13	10			
275	268	18	3	269	13	10			
276	254	19	1	257	14	5			
277	268	18	3	269	13	10			
278	261	18	15	257	14	5			
279	268	18	3	257	14	5			
280	268	18	3	269	13	10			
281	268	18	3	269	13	10			
282	265	18	3	257	14	5			
283	265	18	8	-	-	-	1		
284	248	19	11	257	14	5			
285	264	18	9	-	-	-	1		
286	258	19	4	262	14	1			
287	261	18	13	262	14	1			
288	261	18	13	262	14	1			
289	248	19	11	262	14	1			
290	264	18	9	263	14	1			
291	237	20	7	260	14	3			
292	264	18	9	269	13	10			

No. of gun.	Proof range of powder for 1st charges.	First charges. (powder.)		Proof range of powder for 2d charges.	Second charges. (powder.)		Number burst.		Remarks.
	Yards.	lbs.	oz.	Yards.	lbs.	oz.	1st fire.	2d fire.	
293	237	20	7	260	14	3			used at both discharges, agreeably to regulations. W. J. WORTH, *Bt. Lt. Col., Maj. of Ord., and Inspec'r.* JNO. CHILDE, *Lt. and Ass't Inspector.*
294	236	20	8	264	13	15			
295	265	18	8	260	14	3			
296	248	20	1	259	14	4			
297	265	18	8	260	14	3			
298	265	18	8	262	14	1			
299	237	20	7	262	14	1			
300	260	18	15	259	14	4			
301	236	20	8	262	14	1			
302	236	20	8	-	-		1		
303	236	20	8	-	-		1		
304	264	18	9	247	14	13			
305	237	20	7	259	14	4			
306	264	18	9	260	14	3			
307	237	20	7	259	14	4			
308	247	19	12	-	-		1		
309	240	20	3	285	12	15			
310	245	19	13	259	14	4			
311	246	19	13	259	14	4			
312	245	19	13	-	-		1		
313	271	17	15	258	14	5			
314	247	19	12	285	12	15			
315	245	19	13	252	14	9			
316	247	19	12	285	12	15			
317	271	17	15	259	14	4			
318	240	20	3	285	12	15			
319	258	19	1	252	14	9			
320	240	20	3	285	12	15	-	1	
321	258	19	1	271	13	18			
322	271	17	15	285	12	15			
323	258	19	1	258	14	5			
324	258	19	1	247	14	13			
325	240	20	3	258	14	5			
326	271	17	15	252	14	9			
327	245	19	13	252	14	9			
328	252	19	7	252	14	9			

Second. The facts concerning the bursting of the nine guns on the 7th August, 1834, as follows:

The two inspecting officers (Lt. Col. Worth and Lt. Maynadier) being at Major Clarke's foundry on the above date, in obedience to orders from the Ordnance Office, fifty-eight 32-pounder guns were presented for inspection. Forty-two, however, were only proved, the proof being discontinued at the instance of the founder. The powder used in proving these guns was most carefully proved on the ground by the inspectors, and the charges weighed by them in presence of the founder. The powder was of Dupont's manufacture, except that used in eight charges for the second fire, and was selected from the lowest range on hand at the Frankford arsenal.

As stated in the facts concerning the former bursting, (of July, 1833,) the regulations were fully explained to the founder; he was also informed that if he had any objections to the regulations, or to the manner of administering them, the inspectors would await the further orders of the department.

The founder was also requested by the inspectors to be present, and was actually present, and assisted in proving the powder, weighing the charges, and in loading and discharging the guns. Of the 42 guns proved, 9 burst, eight at the first and one at the second fire.

As Major Clarke had been unfortunate in the inspection of July, 1833, and as he was prejudiced against the method of ascertaining the strength of powder, (by the use of the established eprouvette,) no means were left untried to arrive at the greatest practicable accuracy. Major Clarke formerly made great objections to the use of two round shot in proving his guns, to the breaking and wedging of which he attributed the bursting of his guns. *On this occasion*, at his request, cylindrical shot were used, except (at his suggestion) in the last three guns tried, two of which broke in like manner with the preceding. The eprouvette used in proving the powder was perfectly new, and, from less use, doubtless gave greater ranges (and consequently greater reductions in quantity by the tables) than that of the same series in use at the Frankford arsenal.

The guns (32-pounders) of the inspection of August, 1834, were charged with powder and ball according to the following tabular statement, the details of which are in conformity with the regulations of Nov. 29, 1832, which governed at that time.

	1st proof.					2d proof.					Burst.		
No. of gun.	Proof range of powder.	Weight of charge.		Weight of shot.		Proof range of powder.	Weight of charge.		Weight of Shot.		1st fire.	2d fire.	Remarks.
	Yards.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.	Yards.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.			
329	273	17	13¼	66	3	276	13	5	65	12			*Extract from the report of the inspectors of Aug. 7, 1834.*
330	225	21	5	66	7	276	13	5	66	2			
331	273	17	13¼	66	4	276	13	5	65	9			
332	275	17	13¼	66		276	13	5	66	7			
333	273	17	13¼	66	7	276	13	5	65	14			
334	225	21	5	66	6	273	13	6¼	66	4			"The founder
335	276	17	11	66	2	269	13	10	66	2			ascribes the failure of his guns to
336	273	17	13¼	66	3	–	–		–		1		excessive proof-
337	225	21	5	66	6	276	13	5	65	6			charges. The in-
338	225	21	5	66	5	269	13	10	66				spectors entertain
339	255	19	4	65	14	269	13	10	65	10			a different opin-
340	255	19	4	66	4	269	13	10	66	4			ion, and ascribe
341	242	20	1	66	10	276	13	5	66				the result to de-
342	242	20	1	65	1	269	13	10	66	1			fect, either in the
343	255	19	4	66	4	269	13	10	66				metal, or in the
344	255	19	4	65	1	226	15	15	66	4			manner of work-
345	226	21	4	65	1	276	13	5	66	1			ing it, in which
346	226	21	4	66	13	269	13	10	66	12			they were sustain-
347	255	19	4	66		279	13	3¼	66				ed by the nature
348	276	17	11	66		276	13	5	66	4			of the fractures.
349	242	20	1	66		279	13	3¼	66	7			Specimens were
350	242	20	1	66		276	13	5	65	12.			preserved, and
351	276	17	11	66	11	279	13	3¼	66	4			have been since
352	226	21	4	66		276	13	5	66	6			submitted to ex-
353	226	21	4	66	6	279	13	3¼	66	4			perienced found-
354	279	17	9	66		–	–		–		1		

No. of gun.	1st proof.					2d proof.					Burst.		Remarks.
	Proof range of powder.	Weight of charge.		Weight of shot.		Proof range of powder.	Weight of charge.		Weight of shot.		1st fire.	2d fire.	
	Yards.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.	Yards.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.			
355	284	17	5	65	14	261	14	2	66				ers, who, without knowing any thing of the circumstances, or whence they came, at once decided that the metal was good, but had been injured and rendered unfit for gun metal in melting and casting: that the result arises from this cause cannot be doubted, when it is remembered, that the cannon at other foundries are subjected to the like proof, and, for the past year, without failure. The three last guns were charged with two round shot and the others with one cylindrical shot, for the weight of which see face of the report.
356	281	17	7	66	2	245	14	14	66				
357	284	17	5	66		–		–		–	1		
358	281	17	7	66	9	–		–		–	1		
359	284	17	5	66		261	14	2	66				
360	281	17	7	66	6	–		–		–	1		
361	281	17	7	66		261	14	2	66				
362	281	17	7	66		261	14	2	66				
363	281	17	7	65	10	261	14	2	66	4			
364	279	17	9	65	12	245	14	14	66				
365	226	21	4	66	4	–		–		–	1		
366	284	17	5	66	12	261	14	2	66				
367	284	17	5	66	10	245	14	14	66	4	–	1	
368	277	17	10	67	6	277	13	4	67	6			
369	277	17	10	67	6	–		–		–	1		
370	277	17	10	67	6	–		–		–	1		

W. J. WORTH, *Bt. Lt. Col.*
Major Ordnance Inspector.
WM. MAYNADIER. *Lt.*
Assistant Inspector of Ordnance.

The following is a letter from Messrs. McClurg, Wade & Co. on this subject.

WASHINGTON, *May* 27, 1836.

SIR: In compliance with the request contained in your letter of yesterday, we have to state, that Col. Worth inspected cannon at our works, first in December, 1833, also in June and October, 1834, making six inspections in all.

In our opinion, these inspections were always conducted with the greatest care, attention, and accuracy, by the inspecting officer. He always invited our personal attention to all the proceedings, and desired us to point out any thing which we might consider objectionable, or as not being in accordance with the regulations. We have not, however, on any occasion, made any objection to the proceedings of the inspectors, nor to any part of them; being always fully satisfied that they were in strict conformity with the established regulations.

At the inspection made in 1832, the first conducted by Colonel Worth, several of our cannon failed to stand the required proof, and nine burst. All the cannon cast since that inspection, amounting to one hundred and forty-seven in all, have stood the proof, not a single failure having occurred in guns since that time.

We have never attributed the failure of some of the guns cast in 1832, and the undeviating success of all cast since, to any difference in the mode or the accuracy of proving the several parcels, but to a difference in the quality of the material used. When the failure occurred, we attributed it to the quality of the iron; and, since that time, we have taken very good care not to use any iron, the strength of which was, in the least degree, doubtful. This difference in results, we have always attributed to our own care and attention in selecting materials, and not to any want of either on the part of the inspecting officers.

Respectfully,
Your obedient servants,
McCLURG, WADE & CO.

COL. G. BOMFORD,
Ordnance Office.

The following are the answers of G. Kemble, Esq., of the West Point foundry, in his letter of the 20th June, 1836, to the queries propounded to him by this office:

1st query: Please state the number of inspections made by Colonel Worth at your establishment, and its periods.

2d query: Your opinion as to the care, accuracy, and attention with which those inspections were conducted.

In answer to the first query: Colonel Worth acted as inspector of ordnance in the years 1833 and 1834; during which time he made four inspections of guns and shot at the West Point foundry, viz:

On the 13th May, 1833.
On the 1st July, 1833.
On the 24th May, 1834.
On the 2d July, 1834.

In answer to the second query, it becomes me to state, that no officer could be more accurate in his examinations, or more attentive to every point relating to the proof, than was Colonel Worth throughout the whole of these inspections.

Such are the facts of these two cases of bursting. They have been collected with great care from original reports of inspectors, letters, &c., marked A, B, C, D, E, and K, accompanied herewith.

Before proceeding to examine the facts of these cases, it should be stated that the 16 guns which burst out of 114 examined, must have failed either in consequence of a defective regulation-proof, or of incapacity or culpability in the inspectors; in either of which suppositions, Major Clarke would be fairly entitled to remuneration from the Government—that is to say:

First. The regulation-charges, under which they failed, may have been excessive, and, though accurately measured and determined in practice by the inspectors, they may have been so powerful as to destroy guns equal in strength to those which the United States were then receiving from other founders. In this case, the regulation would be objectionable, and Major Clarke fairly entitled to compensation.

Second. On the other hand, the regulation-charges may have been good and unobjectionable; but, by the neglect of the inspectors, they may not have been used in practice; and in this case the fault would be with

the inspectors, and Major Clarke be, in consequence, clearly entitled to compensation.

It is obvious that under no other than one of these two cases could Major Clarke be entitled to any remuneration.

Let us now proceed to examine the first of these suppositions, that we may determine if the regulation-charges were really excessive.

To do this, it will be necessary to look into the composition and strength of the proof-charges, and the recorded statements of their effects, or general results, at the various foundries where they have been used during the whole period of their adoption by the Government.

Were the proof-charges excessive?

Proof-charges.—The first guns, under the new system of sea-coast artillery, were cast in 1826, and were proved, each, with two regulation proof-charges, as follows:

1st charge.—Two thirds weight of shot in powder, 2 junk-wads, and 2 shot.

2d charge.—One-half weight of shot in powder, 2 junk-wads, and 2 shot; the proof of powder being never less than 200 yards by the eprouvette then in use.

This regulation continued in operation until that of the 29th of November, 1332, (accompanied herewith,) which was as follows: 1st and 2d charges, same as above. The proof of powder being not less than 190, nor more than 290 yards by the new eprouvette, the standard being 225 yards.

This latter regulation continued in force until rescinded by the regulations existing at the present time, adopted by the Board of Ordnance, and under date of the 1st May, 1834. This last went into operation at the foundries on the 1st July, 1835, after the bursting of the sixteen guns, and was as follows:

1st and 2d charges, same as above; but the proof of powder increased so as not to exceed 300 yards, nor be less than 200 yards; the standard being 250 yards.

Powder, proof-charges.—The above regulation of the 29th November, 1832, under which the sixteen guns burst, was not intended to increase, nor did it increase, the charges, but rather the contrary, as will be seen. It was intended,

First. To re-state the proof ranges of the powder intended for the proving of cannon which had been changed by the then recent adjustment of the eprouvettes, that had been effected with great care. By this adjustment, the powder, which was 200 yards by the old eprouvette, became 225, without any increase of strength by the new eprouvette; and as none could be used in the proof of cannon less than 200 yards before the adjustment, so it would have appeared reasonable that none should have been used after it of a strength less than 225 yards; yet so favorable was the regulation to the founders, that it admitted powder so low as 190 yards, and so high as 290; 225 yards being the standard proof. But as the new eprouvette gave proof ranges for the same powder 12½ per cent. greater than those of the old, it is hence perceived that the above minimum proof range of 190 yards, (new eprouvette,) is equal to 166¼ yards of the old eprouvette; and thus it is seen that the minimum powder authorized under the new regu-

lations, was really about 35 yards less in strength than the minimum powder of the old regulations, which was 200 yards.

Second. It was intended to remedy some inconveniencies which had arisen in practice since 1826. The inspectors could not always command powder of a proof exactly 200 yards, and were, in consequence, often obliged to use powder ranging between that proof and the proof of 250 yards and higher; and thus, for this increase of strength, a proportional reduction in quantity became necessary. It was the object of the regulations of 1832, to point out, in a scientific way, and with great precision, the amount of this reduction, in every possible case of increased strength; and it was, therefore, a measure calculated to favor the founders, as well as to assure the Government, since it would prevent the mistake of using too great a quantity of very strong powder, or too small a quantity of very weak powder, in the proof of cannon. The regulation was drawn up on scientific principles, with great care, and in conformity with the most exact experimental results. It accompanies this paper, marked M.

Thus, then, while the three regulations provide the same *weight of standard powder*, the same weight of metal, and the same wads, they exhibit the maximum, minimum, and standard powder as follows, by the new eprouvette now in use:

Date of regulation.	Maximum proof range.	Standard proof range.	Minimum proof range.
Regulation of 1826 - -	300 yards	225 yards	225 yards
Regulation of 1832 - -	300 yards	225 yards	190 yards
Regulation of 1834 - -	300 yards	250 yards	200 yards

As, therefore, the maximum proof ranges are equal as well as all the other elements of the proof-charges, except the *standard* and *minimum* proof ranges, the force of the charges under the three regulations must vary as these latter. But the standard proof ranges of the regulations of 1826 and 1832 being equal, the force of the proof-charges, under those regulations, will be as the minimum proof ranges, which, in the regulation of 1832, being 35 yards less than those of 1826, the proof-charges of the former regulation should be less than those of the regulation of 1826, while those of the regulation of 1834, now in force, are probably the strongest of all. Hence, it is very clear that the proof-charges used under the regulation of 1832, with which the 16 guns were burst, were really of powder weaker than those which either preceded or followed them.

So much for the powder-proof of proof-charges.

We next consider their *effects or general results at the foundries.* They divide themselves into three parts, viz:

Those under the regulation of 1826,

Those under the regulation of 1832, and

Those under the regulation of 1834; and are exhibited in the following tabular statement.

At what foundry.	By what officer inspected.	Number and description of cannon presented.			Number rejected.	Number burst.	Total number received.
		24-pdrs.	32-pdrs.	42-pdrs.			
Under the regulation of 1826.							
Georgetown, D. C. -	Col. Bankhead	248	216	2	-	1 32-pdr.	465
Bellona foundry -	Do.	145	256	-	-	1 32 and 2 24-pdrs.	398
West Point foundry -	Do.	269	217	-	-	-	486
Pittsburg foundry -	Do.	-	13	-	-	-	13
Under the regulation of 1832.							
Georgetown, D. C. -	Col. Worth	-	91	-	-	-	91
Bellona foundry -	Do.	-	114	-	-	16 32-pdrs.	98
West Point foundry -	Do.	-	90	-	-	-	90
Pittsburg foundry -	Do.	-	160	-	4 32-pdrs.	9 32-pdrs.	147
Under the regulation of 1834.							
Georgetown, D.C. -	Capt. Ripley	37	5	22	-	-	64
Bellona foundry -	Do.	4	76	-	3 24-pdrs.	1 24 pdr.	76
West Point foundry -	Do.	52	-	49	-	1 24-pdr.	100
Pittsburg foundry, Pa.	Do.	97	11	-	2 24-pdrs.	-	106

RECAPITULATION.

Under the regulation of	Number of guns presented for inspection & proof.	Number burst.	Number rejected.	Number burst and rejected.	Number received.
1826 - -	1,366	4	-	4	1,362
November 29, 1832 - -	455	25	4	29	426
May 1, 1834 - - -	353	2	5	7	346
	2,174	31	9	40	2,134

Total received - - - - - - - - -	2,134
Total burst and rejected - - - - - - - -	40
Total presented for inspection - - - - - - -	2,174

In examining this table with a view to the proof-charges, several forcible views are presented:

First. It is seen above that the 16 guns were burst under the regulation of 1832, and that the powder, used under the preceding or following regulations, was clearly stronger than that used under the regulation of 1832. It is hence obvious that the 2,174 guns submitted for proof during the last eleven years, were proved with charges either ☞ *equal to, or greater* ☜ than those with which the 16 guns were burst. And it is remarkable tha

during this long period, out of so great a number presented for proof, only 31 should have burst; and that, out of these 31,

9 should be admitted by the Pittsburg founders to be of defective metal;
2 should never be complained of by the West Point and Georgetown founders;
4 should never be complained of by Major Clarke; and that only
16 should have the proof contested by Major Clarke.

Total 31 burst.

Thus, out of the 2,174 guns submited for proof, *sixteen* only have been contested: that is to say, one gun out of every 136.

There can be no doubt as to the truth of this remarkable fact. Can it prove that the charges are excessive, and ought in consequence to be reduced?

Is it not much more reasonable to infer that the sixteen guns were too weak, than that charges, which burst only one gun of one hundred and thirty-six, are too strong? Are we to say "the charges are too strong because the gun breaks?" or shall we not rather say the gun is too weak, because the charges have been sanctioned and tested by an experience so uniform and ample? Are we to measure the gun by the charges, or the charges by the gun, in a case like this? In reality, this fact can never be a reason for reducing the proof-charges, though it may be in favor of their increase.

Second. But let us compare the effects of the proof-charges at the several foundries one with another. They were made up from the same elements, and fired by the same inspectors, under circumstances, in all respects, as exactly the same as it was possible. These effects ought, therefore, to be a correct measure of the force of the proof-charges, as well as of the relative skill of the founders; and perhaps this is the best view that could be taken of the subject.

The tables show that, since the adoption of the new sea-coast artillery, there have burst at the Bellona foundry, where the sixteen guns burst, 20 guns out of 595: that is, 1 out of every 29.

At the Pittsburg foundry, employed only during the last five years, 9 guns out of 281: that is, 1 out of every 31.

At the Georgetown foundry, 1 gun out of 621: that is, 1 out of 621.

At the West Point foundry, 1 gun out of 677: that is, 1 out of 677.

Thus, with the same proof-charges and the same inspectors, the guns at Bellona foundry (one of the oldest employed) have suffered greater failures than at any one of the other three foundries; and very much greater than either of the other old foundries of West Point or Georgetown. What can be the reason of this evident difference in the strength of the guns made at the different foundries? Does it not prove the existence, in the manufacture or in the material, of causes of weakness at the Bellona foundry which do not exist at the others? The guns made at that foundry, which sustain the proof, are no doubt good and sufficient for all the purposes of war; but these facts certainly show them to be inferior in strength to those made at the other foundries. If the proof-charges be excessive at the Bellona foundry, why are they not so at the others? Why, indeed, do the other founders make no complaint? Why are they perfectly satisfied with the charges? Is this great difference in the resistance of the guns attributable to the fault of the founder, or to excessive proof charges? If it be to the

latter, why have not the same failures appeared at the other foundries where the same charges have been used?

Notwithstanding these striking facts, the subject of reducing the proof-charges is agitated by the founder contesting the proof of the sixteen guns. Let us see what would be the ultimate effects or consequences of such a reduction.

The manufacture of cannon, in consequence of the great difficulties of the operation, is become, in Europe as well as in this country, a profession to which men devote their lives; and which requires extensive aids from chemistry, natural philosophy, and the mathematics. These difficulties arise from the great stress which, by means of gun-powder, is necessarily applied to iron, and to which the strength of the iron must be constantly proportional. But the prodigious increase in the strength of gun-powder during the last twenty years, has increased proportionally this stress upon the iron used in cannon; and has thus rendered the strength required in that material proportionally greater, and the profession of a founder much more difficult than formerly. These difficulties are considered so great in the United States, and the procuring good guns for the national defences has been deemed a subject of so much importance, that the Government has found it advisable to employ only four founders out of the great number now in the United States; this being done in order that these founders might employ all their time and talents upon a subject of so much difficulty.

So soon, therefore, as we reduce the proof-charges for cannon, the founders will not have the same difficulties to surmount with the new as with the old proof charges; and, as a matter of course, will reduce their expenditures proportionally. For assuredly they will curtail the expenditures corresponding to the difficulties to be surmounted in the heavier proof-charges, and make only the lighter expenditures corresponding to the lesser difficulties of the lighter proof-charges. Thus the guns will be inevitably weakened, while the Government yet pay the same prices for their cannon.

This is a consequence of reduction which can, in no way, be avoided. Does the Government want weaker cannon at the same prices? Would it not be preferable to pay higher prices, if a change be at all necessary, and continue the guns of the same unexceptionable strength as at present? In this manner the unskilful founder might devote greater expenditures, to overcome, without loss, the difficulties of the manufacture.

Finally, seeing that a change in the proof-charges would necessarily produce a change in the manufactures at the foundries; that it would unsettle the existing state of their operations, which are admitted to be accompanied by the most successful results in the manufacture of cannon; seeing that, by the use of these proof-charges for a long series of years, they have given us a system of sea-coast artillery of unexampled strength and beauty of construction; that under this system of proof we have received upwards of 2,000 cannon, and expended nearly a million of dollars; shall we, at this late date, abandon what has proved to be good and unexceptionable, and commit ourselves to uncertainty and the hazards of new rules, which, whether they be those of France or England (different the one from the other) will, as they are different from our own, unavoidably produce a change in our manufactures; and which, while they cannot produce better guns, may, and most probably will, produce those which are worse: for it must not be forgotten that the English and French proofs agree only in the

use of one shot. They differ in the important points of *quantity of powder*, and in the *number of discharges*, while those of England and the United States differ in the *quantity of metal* and in the *quantity of powder*, but agree in the number of discharges; and it is as difficult to compare those of France and Great Britain, and to say which is the greater, as it is to compare those of Great Britain and the United States. It is known too, that, corresponding to these different proof-charges, there is a marked difference in the metal of the three nations; the Swedish metal used in France being better than the English, and the English metal manifestly different from our own. Long experience of these several states in their different proof-charges show them to be good, and severally applicable to their different metal, and they therefore have made no changes. Why then shall we displace our own, and take the English or French proof? They have, indeed, been found good for metal different from our own; but, upon our metal, they must necessarily produce different results, which we cannot predict to be good or evil, as we only know that by this change we lay aside that which is certainly good, to take up with that which is not only uncertain, but from which there would be high probability of error and consequent disaster to the country. Besides, if we adopt the English or French proof-charges, why may we not also go on and adopt the entire system of the French or English sea-coast artillery, with all its different dimensions and different apparatus? They are equally applicable to our system of fortifications; and if their proof-charges be good for our artillery, (so different in size from theirs,) they would be still better for their artillery adopted by us.

But it is urged, with great earnestness, that the American proof-charges are much more powerful than those of Great Britain; and it is hence pretended to be inferred that they are unfit to be used in the proof of cannon. Now, although it has been clearly shown, by unquestionable recorded results, extending through a series of years, obtained at various foundries, while controlled by different superintendents, and without complaint from the latter, that these charges have been adequate to all the purposes of Government, and are in no way objectionable; yet, for your satisfaction, it may be proper to exhibit them by the side of those of Great Britain. They are so exhibited below:

British proof-charges for heavy cannon.

Calibers.	Weight. Pounds.	Average weight.	First charge.		Second charge.	
			Powder in lbs. and ounces.	Powder in parts of the weight of the balls.	Powder in lbs. and ounces.	Powder in parts of the weight of the balls.
42-pounder	7,308	7,308	25 0	.595	25 0	.595
32 do.	6,240	5,792	21 8	.671	21 8	.671
32 do.	5,344		21 8	.671	21 8	.671
24 do.	5,616	5,076	18 0	.750	18 0	.750
24 do.	5,328		18 0	.750	18 0	.750
24 do.	4,872		18 0	.750	18 0	.750
24 do.	4,488		18 0	.750	18 0	.750
18 do.	4,716	4,464	15 0	.833	15 0	.833
18 do.	4,212	–	15 0	.833	15 0	.833

REMARKS.—For each charge of each gun, one shot and two high junk wads.

American proof-charges for heavy cannon, used in the proof of Major Clarke's guns.

Calibers.	Weight. Pounds.	Average weight.	First charge.		Second charge.	
			Powder in lbs. and ounces.	Powder in parts of the weight of the balls.	Powder in lbs. and ounces.	Powder in parts of the weight of the balls.
42-pounder	8,704	–	28 0	.666	21 0	.500
32 do.	7,584	–	21 4	.666	16 0	.500
24 do.	5,595	–	16 0	.666	12 0	.500

REMARKS.—For each charge of each gun, two shot and two junk wads.

In examining these tables, we at once see a remarkable difference, in the great weapon of the two nations, to consist in the

Weights of the different calibers.

42-pounders.—That of the American 42-pounder is 1,396 lbs. heavier than that of the English, or heavier by about one-fifth of the English gun.

32-pounders.—In the 32-pounders the differences are still greater. The American 32-pounder is heavier than the heaviest English 32-pounder by

1,344 lbs.; that is, heavier by one-fourth or one-fifth of the heaviest English 32-pounder. And the same American gun is heavier than the lightest English 32 pounder by the enormous difference of 2,240 lbs.; thus making the American 32-pounder about one-half or one-third heavier than the lightest English 32-pounder, (and this, it may be remarked, is the caliber that burst at Major Clarke's foundry.)

24-pounders.—The English have as many as four different calibers of 24-pounders; the heaviest being about equal in weight to that of the United States, and the lightest 1,147 lbs. lighter than the American gun, which is thus about one-fourth of the English gun heavier, and about 500 lbs. heavier than the average weight of the four English 24-pounders. A further view of calibers, in English sea-coast artillery, is not taken, as we have not as yet cast any 18-pounders.

Thus while the average weight of the three English calibers is but 5,392 lbs., that of the same three American calibers is 7,294 lbs. And, as the principal of these calibers have near about the same length with the American guns, they must consequently have a thickness of metal considerably less: and hence, (supposing the material and workmanship equal,) the American gun, having a greater thickness of metal, would require, and should sustain, proof-charges proportionally greater than those for the English guns.

The Government of the United States, therefore, having, upon principle, and after due consideration, adopted a system of sea-coast artillery of a weight and thickness of metal considerably greater than those in use in Great Britain for the same calibers, there would hence appear very powerful reasons why the American proof-charges should be greater than those in use for like calibers in the British empire. Yet, on examination, it is a matter of doubt which proof-charges are upon the whole the greater—those of Great Britain, or of the United States.

It is perceived, on examining these tables, that the English use two charges to each gun, with one shot and two high junk wads to each charge; that the Americans, in like manner, use two charges and two junk wads to each gun, differing from the English, however, in using two shot in each charge.

42-pounders.—As regards the English 42-pounder, it has the first charge of powder three pounds less than that of the United States for this caliber, and the second charge, four pounds greater; but it should be remembered that that is 1,400 lbs. lighter than the American 42-pounder.

32-pounders.—The first charges of the American and English 32-pounders are about the same; but the second charge for this caliber of the English piece is 21 lbs. 8 oz., while that for the American piece is only 16 lbs.; the latter gun being, notwithstanding, 2,240 lbs. heavier than the lightest English 32-pounder, and heavier than the heaviest by 1,344 lbs.

24-pounders.—The English 24-pounder has 18 lbs. for the first charge, while that of the American gun, of the same caliber, has only 16 lbs. for this charge; and in the second charge of this caliber the difference is still greater, the English charge being 6 lbs. greater than the American, while it must not be forgotten that the American gun is 1,147 lbs. heavier than the lightest English gun of this caliber, and 500 lbs. heavier than the average weight of the English guns of this caliber.

18-pounders.—With regard to the 18-pounder, the Americans have not yet finally fixed on the dimensions of this piece; but its proof-charges have

been established to be in the same proportion as for the sea-coast artillery. The English first charge for this piece being 15 lbs., is 3 lbs. heavier than the American second charge; which would make it two-thirds greater than the American second charge—the English being 15 lbs., and the American 9 lbs.

It thus appears that in Great Britain the proof-charges of powder are variant, being comparatively high with single shot; while in the United States, the proof-charges of powder are uniform, but comparatively low with double shot—our artillery being much heavier, having greater thickness of metal.

From all which we would conclude, with regard to the proof-charges, that they are far from being excessive, and ought not to be reduced; and this conclusion is confirmed by the able report, (marked L,) on the same subject, of Major General Macomb and Brigadier General Wool, who state: "We believe there must have been some defect in the guns which did not stand the proof. The fact that so many guns have stood the prescribed proof, at Bellona arsenal, as well as at every other foundry, is a strong presumption that the proof to which the guns have been subjected is not too great."

If it be shown by these investigations that *the proof-charges were not excessive*, we have next the further question (under the second division of the subject) to examine, viz.

Were the proof-charges accurately measured and correctly used by the inspectors?

To make this examination, we must inquire, from the facts in the case,

First, If the inspectors had the necessary ability, experience, and carefulness for the transaction of such business; and

Secondly, If they were culpable, either from public or private motives.

The inspectors were both selected for their general ability and experience. Those of the senior inspector were undoubted, and generally acknowledged. He had been selected to command in some of the most important stations in the army, the cadets at West Point, in the artillery school of practice at Fortress Monroe, and lastly, for the command of one of the largest arsenals of munitions of war in the country, viz. that at Frankford, Pa. In the latter situations, his information in the affairs of the ordnance, which was before more general, became now necessarily more particular, exact, and in detail; and he was in consequence selected to superintend the operations in inspection of cannon at the foundries. His rank, besides, to which the Government, impressed with his abilities and services, had recently advanced him in the Ordnance Department, gave him a claim to this position in the inspections.

In addition to these views of general ability and experience, the senior inspector had acquired much detailed experience in the proof of cannon immediately before proceeding with the July inspection of Major Clarke, in which seven guns were burst. The facts show that he had, before that inspection, inspected the other three foundries, and proved 118 cannon; and *that* without the slightest objection on the part of the founders, although one of them had nine cannon burst and four rejected.

It must be remarked here, with regard to the bursting of these last

mentioned cannon, that the transaction shows, in a striking manner, the ability and experience manifested by the senior inspector, and their remarkable advantages to the Government in the detection of defective cannon, and in the improvement in the manufacture which followed.

The reports show two inspections at the Pittsburg foundry, by the senior inspector, preceding the July inspection of Major Clarke. In the first, seven guns were burst, and in the second, two. But though the founders seem to have been satisfied, by the result, that the guns were of defective metal, yet they thought it well to be better assured of the fact, and accordingly presented, with thirty one other cannon of superior metal, two of the metal of the bursted guns. The inspectors knew nothing of any difference in the metal. The thirty-one cannon stood the proof, but the two, of different metal, burst; which perfectly assured the founders of their defective metal. (See their letters on this subject, pages 5 and 6.)

It is not, perhaps, possible to exhibit a stronger case, going to establish ability, carefulness, experience, and knowledge of his business, in an inspector of cannon. Here, without previously knowing any thing of the metal, he detected the existence of defective metal in two several instances, to the great advantage of the Government, and the entire satisfaction of the founders. As a consequence, not a gun has burst at that foundry since, although the proof-charges have been since increased. (On this subject, of the fitness of the inspector, see also the answers of G. Kemble, Esq., page 6.)

The senior inspector did not, therefore, appear at the Bellona arsenal without much experience of a detailed and specific character in the proof of cannon. Having arrived at the foundry, how did he conduct himself? He requested Major Clarke to be present at the proof, as well as at all the operations preceding it. The regulations, all the preparatory operations, were proposed to be explained to him, to any extent he might desire. He had the power to stop the proof, or other operations, at any moment, and to refer any point of objection to the proper department. Yet Major Clarke, having full power to stop the inspectors, either in the proof or in the initiatory operations, and to correct them in all points, did not do so, until they had proceeded to the extent noted in the facts. The conduct of the inspectors was in accordance with the regulations; it was formal, regular, uniform. They proceeded, step by step, in the most detailed manner, especially in the second inspection. The proof of each barrel of powder is given in their tables, made upon the spot, and the exact amount, in pounds and ounces, of each of the proof-charges for each gun, according to the strength of each barrel from which it was drawn. All this detailed information is given in the facts, which exhibit a laborious attention to particulars which would seem to leave no room to doubt of the exactness of the inspectors; and yet, in the July inspection, seven guns were burst, out of the seventy-two proved.

But if, in the first inspection in which the seven guns were burst, there was no reason to believe that the inspectors had committed errors in the proof, it was still less probable in the second inspection; in which (in consequence of the complaints made by Major Clarke, about the result of the first inspection) unusual and extraordinary efforts were made by the inspectors to attain the greatest possible correctness in every thing, and yet *nine* guns burst in the second inspection, out of the forty-two proved.

We see, in this second (or August) inspection at Major Clarke's foundry,

the same laborious attention to minute details, in the correspondence of the weight of all the charges with the proof of each barrel of powder, and with the tables of proof-charges furnished from this office. We see, also, that, to please Major Clarke, and at his suggestion, cylinder, instead of round shot, were used; that the powder was proved, and all the other operations performed in his presence; and that he was invited to see, and to object freely to any and every thing not clearly correct. Under such circumstances, it does not seem possible that the inspectors could have committed an error in a matter so plain; and especially after so much conversation and complaint, on the part of the founder, because of the previous bursting.

But why should we not consider the bursting to proceed, not from a mistake, but from defective metal? Only a short time before, we see that seven guns, out of twenty, burst at Pittsburgh, by the same inspectors, and the same charges; the founders inferring, *from the bursting*, that it was in consequence of defective metal; and that they were right in this inference is proved by the fact that, from that proving, they procecded to improve their metal; and although 215 guns have been proved since, with higher charges, not one has burst. Is there any difference between the case of Pittsburgh, in which seven out of twenty burst, and that of Major Clarke, in which sixteen out of one hundred and fourteen burst? The Pittsburgh founders did not, prior to the proof, certainly know of the existence of defective metal, any more than did Major Clarke; but they (as the result showed) rightly *inferred that* from the proof; and why should we not make the same inference in the case of Major Clarke, who has also had eighty cannon proved since, with higher charges, and without bursting? The cases are precisely alike; only in the former, the proof charges are admitted by the founders to be the tests of the goodness of the metal, which the subsequent proofs of two hundred and fifteen guns have confirmed; and in the latter, they are denied, by Major Clarke, to be so, upon vague, indefinite, and general grounds.

But if it be shown that the inspectors had the necessary ability, experience, and carefulness, for the transaction of such business, it becomes necessary next to inquire if they were *culpable*, either from public or private motives. And here it should be remarked, that no accusation of the kind has been even distantly alluded to against them. Universally acknowledged, by all who know them, to be correct and honorable in all things; wholly unconnected in their pecuniary relations with the other three founders, and with the other departments of the ordnance, it is impossible even to suppose that they could be influenced by unworthy motives.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. BOMFORD,
Col. of Ordnance.

To the Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

P. S. All the papers not named in the above report, and having reference to the subject, are also herewith transmitted, marked as follows: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

A.—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY, AUGUST 7, 1834.

Dimensions and proof of forty-two 32-pounder iron cannon, manufactured by Major John Clarke, Bellona foundry, for the United States.

VARIATION ALLOWED.	DIAMETERS NOT TURNED, { More .20. Less .10.									
No. of gun.	a. a. Diameter of the cascable.	b. b. Diameter of the neck of the cascable.	c. c. Diameter of the fillet of the cascable.	e. e. Diameter of the beginning of reinforce.	f. f. Diameter behind the trunnions, (measured on rimbases.)	h. h. Diameter before the trunnions, (measured on rimbases.)	i. i. Diameter before the rimbases.	k. k. Diameter at the end of the reinforce.	l. l. Diameter at the beginning of the chase.	m. m. Diameter of the end of the chase.
	6.41	5.20	6.41	21.70	20.70	20.70	–	19.50	18.90	13.00
329	6.33	5.09	6.40	21.82	20.67	20.67	–	19.60	19.07	13.08
330	6.41	5.16	6.40	21.86	20.67	20.67	–	19.70	19.16	13.10
331	6.35	5.14	6.42	21.88	20.69	20.69	–	19.61	19.20	13.17
332	6.37	5.12	6.43	21.80	20.68	20.68	–	19.60	19.13	13.15
333	6.38	5.22	6.43	21.88	20.70	20.70	–	19.70	19.21	13.18
334	6.35	5.02	6.40	21.85	20.70	20.70	–	19.64	19.19	13.15
335	6.35	5.11	6.41	21.88	20.68	20.68	–	19.60	19.09	13.12
336*	6.33	5.06	6.41	21.76	20.64	20.64	–	19.61	19.10	13.15
337	6.36	5.07	6.41	21.83	20.64	20.64	–	19.60	19.11	13.17
338	6.36	5.13	6.40	21.86	20.65	20.65	–	19.62	19.11	13.15
339	6.36	5.09	6.40	21.83	20.67	20.67	–	19.62	19.13	13.17
340	6.32	5.11	6.41	21.83	20.62	20.62	–	19.61	19.10	13.13
341	6.35	5.06	6.41	21.80	20.63	20.63	–	19.58	19.14	13.16
342	6.37	5.06	6.42	21.84	20.67	20.67	–	19.67	19.14	13.17
343	6.37	5.12	6.41	21.81	20.70	20.70	–	19.69	19.10	13.20
344	6.39	5.08	6.41	21.85	20.63	20.63	–	19.67	19.11	13.17
345	6.41	5.00	6.41	21.90	20.65	20.65	–	19.71	19.12	13.20
346	6.39	5.00	6.41	21.80	20.66	20.66	–	19.71	19.10	13.20
347	6.39	5.09	6.40	21.81	20.68	20.68	–	19.71	19.13	13.11
348	6.36	5.15	6.42	21.80	20.69	20.69	–	19.72	19.19	13.11
349	6.40	5.04	6.41	21.81	20.62	20.62	–	19.62	19.09	13.26
350	6.39	5.04	6.40	21.82	20.63	20.63	–	19.70	19.12	13.15
351	6.33	5.03	6.42	21.84	20.70	20.70	–	19.69	19.12	13.13
352	6.38	5.00	6.39	21.80	20.68	20.68	–	19.72	19.17	13.20
353	6.37	5.06	6.40	21.81	20.71	20.71	–	19.71	19.15	13.20
354*	6.32	5.11	6.41	21.81	20.71	20.71	–	19.67	19.18	13.25
355	6.39	5.04	6.40	21.77	20.69	20.69	–	19.70	19.20	13.18
356	6.38	5.06	6.41	21.81	20.70	20.70	–	19.70	19.16	13.17
357*	6.40	5.04	6.40	21.80	20.67	20.67	–	19.71	19.16	13.10
358*	6.31	5.04	6.40	21.74	20.70	20.70	–	19.70	19.18	13.20
359	6.49	5.19	6.42	21.86	20.69	20.69	–	19.70	19.24	13.25
360*	6.38	5.09	6.44	21.80	20.70	20.69	–	19.66	19.25	13.26
361	6.38	5.06	6.44	21.80	20.72	20.72	–	19.63	19.10	13.18
362	6.40	5.05	6.42	21.72	20.70	20.70	–	19.70	19.15	13.25
363	6.41	5.20	6.46	21.80	20.72	20.72	–	19.68	19.14	13.25
364	6.23	5.08	6.46	21.84	20.68	20.68	–	19.65	19.12	13.25
365*	6.38	5.09	6.44	21.80	20.72	20.72	–	18.58	19.05	13.22
366	6.39	5.10	6.42	21.78	20.72	20.72	–	19.68	19.15	13.20
367†	6.42	5.11	6.43	21.81	20.70	20.70	–	19.70	19.13	13.14
368	6.33	5.04	6.41	21.80	20.70	20.70	–	19.67	19.11	13.30
369*	6.38	5.03	6.40	21.80	20.71	20.71	–	19.56	19.11	13.25
370*	6.37	5.07	6.40	21.77	20.69	20.69	–	19.68	19.14	13.21

* Bursted first fire. † Bursted second fire.

A.—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY—Continued.

VARIATION ALLOWED.	DIAMETERS TURNED, } More or less .05.			More or less .20.	More or less .05.	More or less .20.	More or less .20.	More or less .25.	More or less .20.
No. of gun.	d. d. Diameter of the breech-plate band.	n. n. Diameter of the swell of the muzzle.	o. o. Diameter of the fillet of the muzzle.	A. D. Length from the end of the cascable to the breech-plate band.	D. F. Width of the breech-plate band.	D. G. From the rear of breech-plate band to the end of the trunnions.	D. K. From the rear of the breech plate band to the end of the reinforce.	D. P. From the rear of the breech-plate band to the muzzle.	F. P. Whole length of the bore.
	23.30	15.00	13.50	11.20	2.	42.20	57.00	114.00	107.59
329	23.32	15.00	13.51	11.15	2.	42.20	57.18	114.05	107.69
330	23.32	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.	42.25	57.35	114.12	107.69
331	23.31	15.00	13.50	11.23	2.	42.30	57.11	114.16	107.80
332	23.30	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.	42.20	57.16	114.16	107.85
333	23.30	14.99	13.51	11.20	2.	42.30	57.17	114.22	107.90
334	23.32	15.00	13.51	11.20	2.	42.22	57.23	114.30	107.59
335	23.32	15.03	13.50	11.10	2.	42.18	57.15	114.25	107.85
336*	23.31	15.00	13.50	11.20	2.	42.25	57.25	114.27	107.78
337	23.32	14.98	13.50	11.20	2.	42.20	57.20	114.32	107.70
338	23.31	15.03	13.50	11.25	2.	42.18	57.17	114.25	107.78
339	23.33	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.	42.22	57.10	114.20	107.60
340	23.32	15.00	13.52	11.18	2.	42.22	57.20	114.20	107.68
341	23.31	15.01	13.51	11.24	2.	42.20	57.11	114.38	107.75
342	23.31	15.04	13.50	11.21	2.	42.24	57.34	114.18	107.82
343	23.33	15.00	13.51	11.21	2.	42.25	57.17	114.25	107.76
344	23.32	15.01	13.49	11.23	2.	42.30	57.22	114.33	107.68
345	23.32	15.02	13.51	11.25	2.	42.22	57.10	114.20	107.70
346	23.32	15.00	13.51	11.28	2.	42.20	57.20	114.22	107.70
347	23.30	15.02	13.50	11.20	2.	42.26	57.20	114.20	107.74
348	23.34	15.04	13.53	11.21	2.	42.38	57.16	114.30	107.62
349	23.30	15.00	13.50	11.22	2.	42.20	57.18	114.27	107.78
350	23.30	15.00	13.50	11.14	2.	42.24	57.15	114.28	107.73
351	23.31	15.00	13.52	11.15	2.	42.34	57.20	114.28	107.86
352	23.31	15.02	13.50	11.21	2.	42.32	57.15	114.28	107.67
353	23.32	15.02	13.49	11.18	2.	42.30	57.15	114.20	107.76
354*	23.33	15.01	13.51	11.12	2.	42.27	57.18	114.24	107.75
355	23.33	15.01	13.50	11.17	2.	42.26	57.14	114.36	107.63
356	23.32	15.00	13.48	11.20	2.	42.30	57.17	114.33	107.78
357*	23.33	15.00	13.50	11.19	2.	42.35	57.10	114.15	107.85
358*	23.30	15.02	13.49	11.17	2.	42.30	57.12	114.14	107.05
359	23.35	14.98	13.52	11.25	2.	42.25	57.10	114.30	107.92
360*	23.29	15.00	13.54	11.20	2.	42.20	57.12	114.35	107.93
361	23.33	15.03	13.54	11.25	2.	42.20	57.18	114.20	107.70
362	23.34	15.02	13.53	11.30	2.	42.20	57.18	114.25	107.85
363	23.35	15.05	13.52	11.30	2.	42.25	57.13	114.25	107.70
364	23.35	15.02	13.51	11.30	2.	42.35	57.13	114.34	107.87
365*	23.32	15.03	13.51	11.15	2.	42.25	57.13	114.25	107.75
366	23.35	15.00	13.51	11.25	2.	42.30	57.12	114.33	107.85
367†	23.32	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.	42.30	57.18	114.17	107.78
368	23.33	15.00	13.50	11.20	2.	42.25	57.05	114.20	107.76
369*	23.31	15.00	13.50	11.24	2.	42.35	57.10	114.18	107.76
370*	23.32	15.00	13.51	11.15	2.	42.25	57.04	114.20	107.85

* Bursted first fire. † Bursted second fire

A.—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY—Continued.

VARIATION ALLOWED.	More or less .20.	Less .04, more .00.	More.20, less .10.	Above .00, below .20.		More.04, less .00.	More .05.	More or less .20.	More or less .20.
No. of gun.	K. P. Length of the chase, including the muzzle.	G. H. Diameter of trunnions.	f. g. Length of the trunnions.	Position of the trunnions above or below the axis of the bore.	Alignment of the trunnions.	P. P. Diameter of the bore.	Diameter of the vent.	Position of the vent, exterior.	Position of the vent, interior.
	57.00	6.41	6.	On the axis.		6.41	.20	6.204	1.602
329	56.87	6.40	6.	.00		6.44	.20	6.30	1.70
330	56.77	6.41	6.	.04		6.44	.20	6.25	1.50
331	57.05	6.41	6.	.04		6.44	.20	6.25	1.66
332	57.00	6.40	6.	.07		6.44	.20	6.20	1.63
333	57.05	6.40	6.	.10		6.44	.20	6.20	1.70
334	57.07	6.41	6.	.08		6.45	.20	6.20	1.63
335	57.10	6.40	6.	.00		6.44	.20	6.20	1.60
336*	57.02	6.40	6.	.00		6.45	.20	6.20	1.65
337	57.12	6.40	6.	.16		6.45	.20	6.22	1.60
338	57.08	6.41	6.	.05		6.44	.20	6.25	1.65
339	57.10	6.41	6.	.05		6.44	.20	6.20	1.60
340	57.00	6.40	6.	.05		6.41	.20	6.21	1.68
341	57.20	6.40	6.	.05		6.45	.20	6.20	1.60
342	56.84	6.40	6.	.00		6.45	.20	6.20	1.65
343	57.08	6.40	6.	.20		6.42	.20	6.25	1.60
344	57.11	6.41	6.	.05		6.44	.20	6.20	1.60
345	57.10	6.40	6.	.05		6.43	.20	6.20	1.58
346	57.02	6.41	6.	.00		6.44	.20	6.20	1.70
347	57.00	6.40	6.	.00		6.42	.20	6.20	1.65
348	57.14	6.40	6.	.06		6.44	.20	6.20	1.65
349	57.09	6.40	6.	.05		6.43	.20	6.20	1.60
350	57.13	6.40	6.	.10		6.43	.20	6.20	1.50
351	57.08	6.40	6.	.11		6.45	.20	6.20	1.60
352	57.13	6.40	6.	.17		6.45	.20	6.20	1.50
353	57.05	6.40	6.	.11		6.43	.20	6.20	1.60
354*	57.06	6.40	6.	.06		6.45	.20	6.20	1.65
355	57.22	6.40	6.	.16		6.42	.20	6.20	1.65
356	57.16	6.40	6.	.15		6.43	.20	6.20	1.80
357*	57.05	6.40	6.	.05		6.45	.20	6.20	1.75
358*	57.02	6.40	6.	.04		6.42	.20	6.20	1.60
359	57.20	6.40	6.	.00		6.45	.20	6.20	1.62
360*	57.23	6.40	6.	.05		6.42	.20	6.20	1.60
361	57.02	6.40	6.	.03		6.43	.20	6.20	1.60
362	57.07	6.40	6.	.03		6.44	.20	6.20	1.65
363	57.12	6.40	6.	.08		6.45	.20	6.20	1.60
364	57.21	6.39	6.	.11		6.45	.20	6.20	1.60
365*	57.12	6.41	6.	.00		6.44	.20	6.20	1.65
366	57.21	6.39	6.	.07		6.44	.20	6.20	1.64
367†	56.99	6.40	6.	.17		6.43	.20	6.20	1.64
368	57.15	6.40	6.	.00		6.43	.20	6.20	1.70
369*	57.08	6.40	6.	.04		6.44	.20	6.20	1.60
370*	57.16	6 40	6.	.04		6.43	.20	6.20	1.58

CORRECT.

* Bursted first fire. † Bursted second fire.

A.—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY—Continued.

No. of gun.	Weight of the gun.	Ring bores.	1st proof.					2d proof.				
			Proof-range of powder.	Weight of charge.		Weight of shot.		Proof-range of powder.	Weight of charge.		Weight of shot.	
	7,540		Yards.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.	Yards.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.
329	7,550	.07	273	17	13¼	66	3	276	13	5	65	12
330	7,552	.05	225	21	5	66	7	276	13	5	66	2
331	7,548	.04	273	17	13¼	66	4	276	13	5	65	9
332	7,530	.10	273	17	13¼	66	00	276	13	5	66	7
333	7,554	.02	273	17	13¼	66	7	276	13	5	65	14
334	7,548	.00	225	21	5	66	6	273	13	6¼	66	4
335	7,550	.00	276	17	11	66	2	269	13	10	66	2
336*	7,552	.00	273	17	13¼	66	3					
337	7,540	.10	225	21	5	66	6	276	13	5	65	6
338	7,552	.00	225	21	5	66	5	269	13	10	66	00
339	7,546	.07	255	19	4	65	14	269	13	10	65	10
340	7,542	.03	255	19	4	66	4	269	13	10	66	4
341	7,538	.00	242	20	1	66	10	276	13	5	66	00
342	7,567	.00	242	20	1	65	1	269	13	10	66	1
343	7,557	.04	255	19	4	66	4	269	13	10	66	00
344	7,557	.06	255	19	4	65	1	226	15	15	66	4
345	7,559	.02	226	21	4	65	1	276	13	5	66	1
346	7,555	.03	226	21	4	66	13	269	13	10	66	12
347	7,557	.03	255	19	4	66	00	279	13	3¼	66	00
348	7,540	.02	276	17	11	66	00	276	13	5	66	4
349	7,558	.00	242	20	1	66	00	279	13	3¼	66	7
350	7,530	.00	242	20	1	66	00	276	13	5	65	12
351	7,556	.07	276	17	11	66	11	279	13	3¼	66	4
352	7,560	.03	226	21	4	66	00	276	13	5	66	6
353	7,548	.06	226	21	4	66	6	279	13	3¼	66	4
354*	7,550	.04	279	17	9	66	00					
355	7,550	.02	284	17	5	65	14	261	14	2	66	00
356	7,548	.00	281	17	7	66	2	245	14	14	66	00
357*	7,556	.04	284	17	5	66	00					
358*	7,546	.00	281	17	7	66	9					
359	7,550	.00	284	17	5	66	00	261	14	2	66	00
360*	7,552	.00	281	17	7	66	6					
361	7,548	.00	281	17	7	66	00	261	14	2	66	00
362	7,552	.00	281	17	7	66	00	261	14	2	66	00
363	7,552	.00	281	17	7	65	10	261	14	2	66	4
364	7,538	.02	279	17	9	65	12	245	14	14	66	00
365*	7,530	.00	226	21	4	66	4					
366	7,534	.00	284	17	5	66	12	261	14	2	66	00
367†	7,550	.02	284	17	5	66	10	245	14	14	66	4
368	7,538	.02	277	17	10	67	6	277	13	4	67	6
369*	7,546	.00	277	17	10	67	6					
370*	7,540	.00	277	17	10	67	6					

* Bursted first fire. † Bursted second fire.

Remarks.—Fifty-eight guns were presented and inspected, although only 42 appear on this report, the proof having at that number been discontinued at the notice of the founder. Nos. 336, 354, 357, 358, 360, 365, 369, and 370, broke on the first, and 367 on the second fire. The powder used, except eight charges for the second fire drawn from Bellona arsenal, was of Dupont's manufacture: for charges and ranges, see face of the return; for proof of three successive periods, see table below. The powder was most carefully proved on the ground by the inspectors, and the charges weighed by them in presence of the founder. 367, which broke on the second fire, was charged with 14 lbs. 14 oz. of Bellona powder, marked range 194, and re-proof 245 yards.

The exterior finish and general appearance of these guns was not of that degree of excellence which might be attained by proper care and skill; a. a. and b. b. exceed the variation allowed below the prescribed dimension generally; k. k., D. K, D. P., and F. P. generally above. With the exception of a. a. and b. b., the errors pointed out last year have been corrected.

The founder ascribes the failure of his guns to excessive proving-charges; the inspectors entertain a different opinion, and ascribe the result to defect either in the metal or the manner of working it, in which they were sustained by the nature of the fractures; specimens were preserved, and have been since submitted to experienced founders, who, without knowing anything of the circumstances, or whence they came, at once decided that the metal was good, but had been injured and rendered unfit for gun metal in melting and casting; that the result arises from this cause cannot be doubted, when it is remembered that the cannon at other foundries are subjected to the like proof, and, for the past year, without failure. The last three guns were charged with two round shot, and the others with one cylindrical shot: for the weight of which, see face of the report.

The founder presented 637 32-pounder shot: of which were rejected 37 for being plugged; 65 cavities exceeding allowance; 2 too small; 1 too large; 532 received, average weight of which was 33 lbs. 7 oz. The true point of sight was determined, and marked at the swell of the muzzle and lock-piece of the guns.

Respectfully submitted.

W. J. WORTH,
Brevet Lt. Col., Maj. Ordnance, Inspector.
WM. MAYNADIER,
Lieut., Assistant Inspector of Ordnance.

Table showing the proof range of each barrel of powder used in the foregoing inspection, by the proofs in the years of 1829 *and* 1833, *at Frankford arsenal, and at Bellona foundry at the time of use.*

No. of barrel.	Proof range of 1829.	Proof range of 1833.	Proof range of 1834.	
98	281	225	273	
99	310	235	269	
100	272	226	281	
101	291	229	255	
103	287	230	276	
104	267	227	226	
105	300	231	273	
106	276	225	279	
107	288	226	276	
108	280	226	242	
109	300	235	279	
110	307	227	284	
112	269	225	284	
114	267	230	225	
556	194	-	245	Drawn from Bellona foundry of necessity, and used for 2d charges.
80	210	-	261	

B.—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY, JULY 18, 1883.

Dimensions and proof of seventy-two 32-pounder, iron cannon, manufactured for the United States by John Clarke, Esq.

VARIATION ALLOWED.	DIAMETER NOT TURNED, { More .20.. Less .05.								
No. of gun.	a. a. Diameter of cascable.	b. b. Diameter of the neck of cascable.	c. c. Diameter of the beginning of reinforce.	f. f. Diameter behind the trunnions, measured on rimbases.	h. h. Diameter before the trunnions, measured on rimbases.	i. i. Diameter before the rimbases.	k. k. Diameter at the end of reinforce.	l. l. Diameter at the beginning of chase.	m. m. Diameter of the end of the chase.
	6.41	5.20	21.70	20.70	20.70	00	19.50	18.90	13.00
257	6.30	5.00	21.92	20.60	20.60	–	19.33	19.05	13.50
258	6.31	5.04	21.87	20.60	20.60	–	19.32	18.97	13.20
259	6.33	5.04	21.90	20.68	20.68	–	19.30	19.00	13.15
260	6.35	5.04	21.90	20.60	20.60	–	19.40	19.00	13.10
261	6.30	5.04	21.92	20.60	20.60	–	19.36	19.00	13.25
262	6.31	5.04	21.92	20.60	20.60	–	19.34	18.96	13.20
263	6.35	5.05	21.92	20.60	20.60	–	19.40	19.00	13.18
264	6.35	5.05	21.93	20.62	20.62	–	19.35	19.00	13.20
265	6.30	5.00	21.93	20.55	20.55	–	19.35	18.96	13.20
266	6.34	5.08	21.89	20.59	20.59	–	19.38	19.00	13.21
267	6.39	5.02	21.84	20.54	20.54	–	19.56	19.04	13.25
268	6.38	5.05	21.88	20.64	20.64	–	19.45	18.90	13.08
269	6.37	4.99	21.87	20.60	20.60	–	19.52	19.00	13.20
270	6.30	5.00	21.85	20.60	20.60	–	19.60	19.00	13.26
271	6.37	5.00	21.86	20.64	20.64	–	19.60	19.05	13.26
272	6 34	5.00	21.83	20.58	20.58	–	19.35	18.98	13.21
273	6.40	5.08	21.85	20.60	20.60	–	19.30	18.99	13.20
274	6.35	5.00	21.82	20.60	20.60	–	19.40	19.10	13.20
275	6.40	5.10	21.85	20.65	20.65	–	19.36	18.93	13.20
276	6.41	5.00	21.78	20.59	20.59	–	19.65	19.00	13.20
277	6.48	5.08	21.88	20.57	20.57	–	19.38	18.90	13.21
278	6.40	5.10	21.80	20.61	20.61	–	19.60	19.15	13.15
279	6.30	5.02	21.76	20.66	20 66	–	19.30	18.90	13.08
280	6.35	5.05	21.80	20.61	20.61	–	19.37	19.00	13.20
281	6.35	5.48	21.80	20.55	20.55	–	19.58	19.00	13.20
282	6.31	5.03	21.86	20.60	20.60	–	19.57	19.02	13.20
283*	6.33	5.08	21.82	20.60	20.60	–	19.45	19.05	13.10
284	6.35	5.20	21.85	20.66	20.66	–	19.55	19.10	13.20
285*	6.30	5.00	21.75	20.55	20.55	–	19.50	19.00	13.16
286	6.30	5.07	21.78	20.56	20.56	–	19.45	19.09	13.05
287	6.32	5.10	21.80	20.56	20.56	–	19.50	19.00	13.17
288	6.31	5.12	21.85	20.60	20.60	–	19.50	19.08	13.10
289	6.31	5.10	21.82	20.59	20.59	–	19.50	19.00	13.19
290	6.31	5.14	21.78	20.52	20.52	–	19.47	19.00	13.20
291	6.36	5.15	21.82	20.60	20.60	–	19.50	19.11	13.14
292	6.35	5.20	28.88	20.55	20.55	–	19.42	19.08	13.10
293	6.28	5.20	21.75	20.55	20.55	–	19.50	19.10	13.15
294	6.30	5.18	21.80	20.55	20.55	–	19.50	19.05	12.96
295	6.33	5.15	21.83	20.53	20.53	–	19.45	19.08	13.14
296	6.41	5.15	21.75	20.56	20.56	–	19.50	19.00	13.12
297	6.38	5.20	21.82	20.58	20.58	–	19.47	19.06	13.05

* Burst first fire.

B—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY—Continued.

VARIATION ALLOWED.	DIAMETERS TURNED, .05.							
No. of gun.	c. c. Diameter of the fillet of cascable.	d. d. Diameter of the breech-plate band.	n. n. Diameter of the plane of the muzzle.	o. o. Diameter of the muzzle.	A. D. Length from the end of the cascable to the breech-plate band.	D. F. Width of the breech-plate.	D. G. from the rear of breech-plate band to the rear of trunnions.	D. K. From the rear of breech plate band to end of reinforce.
	6.41	22.30	15.00	13.50	11.20	2.00	42.20	57.00
257	6.45	22.32	15.02	13.50	11.32	2.00	42.30	57.20
258	6.45	22.34	15.00	13.50	11.35	2.00	42.20	57.30
259	6.45	22.40	15.00	13.50	11.40	2.00	42.18	57.20
260	6.37	22.31	15.00	13.50	11.34	2.00	42.22	57.20
261	6.44	22.37	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.00	42.30	57.35
262	6.45	22.33	15.00	13.50	11.30	2.00	42.30	57.35
263	6.46	22.37	15.00	13.50	11.35	2.00	42.25	57.10
264	6.43	22.37	15.00	13.50	11.40	2.00	42.30	57.21
265	6.43	22.31	15.00	13.50	11.30	2.00	42.25	57.40
266	6.47	22.31	14.93	13.50	11.30	2.00	42.20	57.35
267	6.41	22.31	15.01	13.45	11.30	2.00	42.32	57.30
268	6.42	22.30	15.01	13.50	11.30	2.00	42.30	57.20
269	6.43	22.30	15.00	13.50	11.40	2.00	42.20	57.15
270	6.52	22.35	15.00	13.50	11.30	2.00	42.20	57.25
271	6.49	22.35	15.05	13.50	11.30	2.00	42.32	57.05
272	6.50	22.28	15.00	13.50	11.42	2.00	42.18	57.18
273	6.48	22.35	15.00	13.46	11.30	2.00	42.20	57.10
274	6.50	22.35	15.00	13 50	11.25	2.00	42.22	57.05
275	6.43	22.31	15.00	13.50	11.20	2.00	42.20	57.10
276	6.42	22.31	15.00	13.40	11.30	2.00	42.20	57.04
277	6.41	22.33	15.00	13.50	11.15	2.00	42.25	57.20
278	6.36	22.33	15.00	13.40	11.50	2.00	42.20	57.00
279	6.42	22.26	15.00	13.48	11.15	2.00	42.26	57.28
280	6.44	22.30	15.00	13.50	11.15	2.00	42.35	57.30
281	6.42	22.32	15.00	13.46	11.12	2.00	42.30	57.12
282	6.41	22.31	14.98	13.50	11.12	2.00	42.28	57.10
283*	6.42	22.30	15.00	13.42	11.20	2.00	42.20	57.15
284	6.40	22.40	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.00	42.20	57.20
285*	6.40	22.30	14.98	13.50	11.20	2.00	42.20	57.10
286	6.41	22.30	15.04	13 50	11.20	2.00	42.20	57.10
287	6.40	22.30	14.96	13,50	11.30	2.00	42.19	57.10
288	6.40	22.30	16.00	13.41	11.11	2.00	42.10	57.12
289	6.39	22.32	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.00	42.25	57.20
290	6.40	22.30	14.96	13.48	11.20	2.00	42.10	57.00
291	6.40	22.31	14.98	13.48	11.20	2.00	42.20	57.00
292	6.35	22.35	15.00	13.49	11.30	2.00	42.30	57.10
293	6.40	22.30	15.00	13.50	11.20	2.00	42.30	57.10
294	6.43	22.38	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.00	42.28	57.20
295	6.40	22.30	15.03	13.50	11.40	2.00	42.22	57.10
296	6.39	22.31	14.96	13.47	11.30	2.00	42.26	57.18
297	6.40	22.30	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.00	42.20	57.20

*Burst first fire.

B.—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY—Continued.

VARIATION ALLOWED.		.20.		less .04.	More .10. Less .05.	Above .00. Below .30.		More .04, Less .00.
No. of gun.	D. P. From the rear of breech-plate band to the muzzle.	F. P. Whole length of the bore.	K. P. Length of the chase including the muzzle.	G. H. Diameter of trunnions.	f. g. Length of the trunnions.	Position of the trunnions above or below the axis of the bore.	Alignment of trunnions.	P. P. Diameter of the bore.
	114.00	107.59	57.00	6.41	6.00	.00		6.41
257	114.30	107.70	57.10	6.39	6.00	.16	CORRECT.	6.44
258	114.25	107.70	56.95	6.39	6.00	.14		6.42
259	114.25	107.69	57.05	6.40	6.00	.10		6.43
260	114.35	107.60	57.15	6.39	6.00	.10		6.41
261	114.15	107.64	56.80	6.40	6.00	.10		6.43
262	114.20	107.60	56.85	6.40	6.00	.09		6.44
263	114.20	107.65	57.10	6.40	6.00	.11		6.43
264	114.20	107.60	57.00	6.40	6.00	.10		6.43
265	114.30	107.68	56.90	6.39	6.00	.07		6.42
266	114.20	107.60	56.85	6.39	6.00	.08		6.43
267	114.20	107.62	56.90	6.37	6.00	.05		6.43
268	114.25	107.70	57.05	6.41	6.00	.10		6.42
269	114.05	107.65	56.90	6.40	6.00	.10		6.42
270	114.25	107.64	57.00	6.39	6.00	.08		6.43
271	114.30	107.65	57.25	6.39	6.00	.05		6.43
272	114.32	107.60	57.14	6.39	6.00	.07		6.43
273	114.40	107.70	57.30	6.49	6.00	.12		6.42
274	114.30	107.70	57.25	6.40	6.00	.00		6.43
275	114.20	107.80	57.10	6.40	6.00	.15		6.43
276	114.20	107.80	57.16	6.39	6.00	.13		6.42
277	114.28	107.65	57.08	6.39	6.00	.12		6.44
278	114.30	107.60	57.30	6.39	6.00	.10		6.43
279	114.30	107.80	57.02	6.39	6.00	.12		6.43
280	114.34	107.70	57.04	6.40	6.00	.14		6.44
281	114.25	107.70	57.13	6.39	6.00	.05		6.43
282	114.30	107.68	57.20	6.40	6.00	.04		6.42
283*	114.35	107.72	57.20	6.39	6.00	.04		6.44
284	114.30	107.73	57.10	6.40	6.00	.05		6.43
285*	114.35	107.70	57.25	6.40	6.00	.00		6.42
286	114.20	107.73	57.10	6.40	6.00	.03		6.44
287	114.25	107.75	57.15	6.40	6.00	.05		6.40
288	114.20	107.66	57.05	6.40	6.00	.05		6.42
289	114.30	107.75	57.10	6.40	6.00	.06		6.43
290	114.25	107.80	57.25	6.40	6.00	.09		6.45
291	114.20	107.75	57.21	6.40	6.00	.06		6.43
292	114.30	107.80	57.20	6.39	6.00	.25		6.44
293	114.30	107.70	57.20	6.39	6.00	.02		6.44
294	114.20	107.80	57.00	6.40	6.00	.28		6.42
295	114.25	107.75	57.15	6.40	6.00	.05		6.42
296	114.25	107.80	57.07	6.39	6.00	.02		6.42
297	114.35	107.75	57.15	6.39	6.00	.25		6.42

* Burst first fire.

B.—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY—Continued.

VARIATION ALLOWED.	More .05.								
No. of gun.	Diameter of vent.	Position of vent exterior.	Position of vent interior.	Weight of the gun.	Proof-range of powder for 1st charges.	First charges.		Proof-range of powder for 2d charges.	Second charges.	
	.2	6.41	1.60		Yards.	lbs.	oz.	Yards.	lbs.	oz
257	.2	6.43	1.60	7,537	268	18	3	269	13	10
258	.2	6.38	1.60	7,537	268	18	3	269	13	10
259	.2	6.30	1.60	7,501	267	18	5	269	13	10
260	.2	6.40	1.40	7,537	266	18	6	249	14	11
261	.2	6.40	1.50	7,519	238	20	6	255	14	6
262	.2	6.39	1.60	7,507	268	18	3	269	13	10
263	.2	6.30	1.75	7,517	238	20	6	249	14	11
264	.2	6.40	1.50	7,513	266	18	6	249	14	11
265	.2	6.33	1.60	7,523	252	19	14	269	13	10
266	.2	6.20	1.50	7,500	266	18	6	249	14	11
267	.2	6.50	1.50	7,537	266	18	6	249	14	11
268	.2	6.45	1.50	7,511	238	20	6	261	14	2
269	.2	6.35	1.50	7,543	268	18	3	249	14	11
270	.2	6.36	1.30	7,529	238	20	6	269	13	10
271	.2	6.40	1.60	7,520	266	18	6	268	13	10
272	.2	6.28	1.48	7,507	248	19	11	257	14	5
273	.2	6.30	1.45	7,537	268	18	3	269	13	10
274	.2	6.40	1.60	7,537	248	19	11	269	13	10
275	.2	6.26	1.45	7,541	268	18	3	269	13	10
276	.2	6.37	1.60	7,502	254	19	1	257	14	5
277	.2	6.40	1.55	7,520	268	18	3	269	13	10
278	.2	6.40	1.60	7,537	261	18	15	257	14	5
279	.2	6.42	1.56	7,507	268	18	3	257	14	5
280	.2	6.40	1.60	7,530	268	18	3	269	13	10
281	.2	6.40	1.58	7,534	268	18	3	269	13	10
282	.2	6.30	1.58	7,540	265	18	8	257	14	5
283*	.2	6.40	1.61	-	265	18	8			
284	.2	6.40	1.62	7,530	248	19	11	257	14	5
285*	.2	6.36	1.56	-	264	18	9			
286	.2	6.36	1.60	7,541	258	19	4	262	14	1
287	.2	6.30	1.60	7,546	261	18	13	262	14	1
288	.2	6.25	1.55	7,529	261	18	13	262	14	1
289	.2	6.35	1.52	7,547	248	19	11	262	14	1
290	.2	6.30	1.60	7,542	264	18	9	263	14	1
291	.2	6.38	1.60	7,550	237	20	7	260	14	3
292	.2	6.40	1.56	7,552	264	18	9	269	13	10
293	.2	6.30	1.60	7,520	237	20	7	260	14	3
294	.2	6.25	1.59	7,528	236	20	8	264	13	15
295	.2	6.30	1.59	7,542	265	18	8	260	14	3
296	.2	6.35	1.60	7,528	248	20	1	259	14	4
297	.2	6.40	1.59	7,512	265	18	8	260	14	3

* Burst first fire.

B.—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY—Continued.

VARIATION ALLOWED.	DIAMETERS NOT TURNED, { More .20. Less .05.								
No. of gun.	a. a. Diameter of cascable.	b. b. Diameter of the neck of cascable.	e. e. Diameter of the beginning of reinforce.	f. f. Diameter behind the trunnions, measured on rimbases.	h. h. Diameter before the trunnions, measured on rimbases.	i. i. Diameter before the rimbases.	k. k. Diameter at the end of reinforce.	l. l. Diameter at the beginning of the chase.	m. m. Diameter of the end of the chase.
	6.41	5.20	21.70	20.70	20.70		19.50	18.90	13.00
298	6.30	5.20	21.82	20.58	20.58	–	19.52	19.09	13.25
299	6.31	5.20	21.84	20.60	20.60	–	19.50	19.12	13.15
300	6.36	5.11	21.83	20.67	20.67	–	19.48	19.10	13.11
301	6.35	5.18	21.82	20.54	20.54	–	19.52	19.02	13.18
302*	6.30	5.15	21.80	20.60	20.60	–	19.40	19.00	13.10
303*	6.35	5.15	21.77	20.50	20.50	–	19.50	19.00	13.10
304	6.30	5.20	21.80	20.60	20.60	–	19.41	19.00	13.15
305	6.30	5.05	21.70	20.55	20.55	–	19.45	19.00	13.15
306	6.30	5.20	21.75	20.60	20.60	–	19.45	19.05	13.20
307	6.29	5.15	21.70	20.50	20.50	–	19.50	19.00	13.15
308*	6.30	5.20	21.70	20.53	20.53	–	19.42	19.02	13.10
309	6.30	5.20	21.80	20.58	20.58	–	19.50	19.05	13.10
310	6.30	5.10	21.84	20.50	20.50	–	19.45	19.08	13.15
311	6.30	5.12	21.80	20.58	20.58	–	19.50	19.06	13.12
312*	6.33	5.20	21.76	20.60	20.60	–	19.56	19.08	13.18
313	6.35	5.18	21.80	20.60	20.60	–	19.51	19.06	13.10
314	6.32	5.15	21.75	20.60	20.60	–	19.50	19.00	13.10
315	6.40	5 10	21.90	20.60	20.60	–	19.50	19.06	13.12
316	6.35	5.15	21.80	20.63	20.63	–	19.50	19.00	13.12
317	6.30	5.15	21.75	20.60	20.60	–	19.50	19.00	13.16
318	6.30	5.12	21.82	20.58	20.58	–	19.44	19.00	13.20
319	6.35	5.12	21.75	20.60	20.60	–	19.50	19.00	13.20
320†	6.40	5.20	21.80	20.61	20.60	–	19 50	19.00	13.15
321	6.40	5.20	21.80	20.62	20.62	–	19.50	19.08	13.16
322	6.42	5.18	21.78	20.60	20.60	–	19.50	19.00	13.10
323	6.40	5.11	21.70	20.60	20.60	–	19.50	19.00	13.18
324	6.39	5.10	21.71	20.60	20.60	–	19.48	18.90	13.10
325	6.39	5.15	21.70	20.60	20.60	–	19.50	19.00	13.11
326	6.40	5.20	21.71	20.60	20.60	–	19.48	18.90	13.11
327	6.30	5.16	21.70	20.55	20.55	–	19.42	19.05	13.16
328	6.31	5.15	21.70	20.60	20.60	–	19.40	19.00	13.12

* Burst first fire. † Burst second fire.

B.—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY—Continued.

VARIATION ALLOWED.	DIAMETERS TURNED, .05.							
No. of gun.	c. c. Diameter of the fillet of cascable.	d. d. Diameter of the breech-plate-band.	n. n. Diameter of the plane of the muzzle.	o. o. Diameter of the fillet of the muzzle.	A. D. Length from the end of the cascable to the breech-plate-band.	D. F. Width of the breech-plate-band.	D. G. From the rear of breech-plate-band to the rear of trunnions.	D. K. From rear of breech-plate-band to end of reinforce.
	6.41	22.30	15.00	13.50	11.20	2.00	42.20	57.00
298	6.40	22.30	15.02	13.52	11.20	2.00	42.30	57.10
299	6.41	22.30	15.00	13.50	11.30	2.00	42.30	57.15
300	6.40	22.35	15.00	13.50	11.20	2.00	42.20	57.00
301	6.40	22.30	15.00	13.48	11.25	2.00	42.15	57.15
302*	6.40	22.32	15.00	13.50	11.40	2.00	42.35	57.05
303*	6.40	22.30	15.00	13.50	11.30	2.00	42.20	57.15
304	6.42	22.31	15.00	13.49	11.25	2.00	42.20	57.15
305	6.40	22.31	15.00	13.49	11.55	2.00	42.20	57.20
306	6.40	22.28	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.00	42.20	57.10
307	6.40	22.28	15.00	13.50	11.35	2.00	42.20	57.20
308*	6.38	22.28	15.00	13.50	11.45	2.00	42.10	57.10
309	6.40	22.32	15.00	13.50	11.35	2.00	42.20	57.00
310	6.40	22.32	15.00	13.50	11.32	2.00	42.12	57.05
311	6.40	22.21	15.00	13.50	11.40	2.00	42.15	57.00
312*	6.40	22.35	15.00	13.50	11.35	2.00	42.22	57.15
313	6.40	22.32	15.00	13.48	11.40	2.00	42.28	57.15
314	6.40	22.32	15.00	13.50	11.30	2.00	42.25	57.10
315	6.40	22.30	15.00	13.50	11.33	2.00	42.20	57.10
316	6.40	22.32	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.00	42.10	57.00
317	6.40	22.30	15.00	13.48	11.10	2.00	42.20	57.12
318	6.40	22.32	15.00	13.50	11.40	2.00	42.20	57.10
319	6.40	22.30	15.00	13.50	11.30	2.00	42.20	57.00
320†	6.35	22.31	15.02	13.48	11.30	2.00	42.18	57.20
321	6.50	22.32	15.00	13.50	11.45	2.00	42.10	57.10
322	6.41	22.30	15.00	13.50	11.25	2.00	42.25	57.20
323	6.40	22.31	15.00	13.50	11.45	2.00	42.10	57.18
324	6.42	22.30	15.00	13.48	11.40	2.00	42.18	57.15
325	6.40	22.30	14.49	13.49	11.30	2.00	42.09	57.00
326	6.42	22.29	15.00	13.50	11.10	2.00	42.10	57.10
327	6.40	22.35	14.98	13.50	11.30	2.00	42.13	57.10
328	6.45	22.30	14.98	13.50	11.35	2.00	42.10	57.10

* Burst first fire. † Burst second fire.

B.—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY—Continued.

VARIATION ALLOWED.		.20.		Less .01.	More .10. Less .05.	Above .00. Below .30.		More .04. Less .00.
No. of gun.	D. P. From the rear of breech plate-band to the muzzle.	F. P. Whole length of the bore.	K. P Length of the chase including the muzzle.	G. H. Diameter of trunnions.	f. g. Length of the trunnions.	Position of the trunnions above or below axis of the bore.	Aligment of trunnions.	P. P. Diameter of the bore.
	114.00	107.59	57.00	6.41	6.00	.00		6.41
298	114.20	107.75	57.10	6.40	6.00	.05	CORRECT.	6.45
299	114.30	107.80	57.15	6.39	6.00	.06		6.45
300	114.20	107.75	57.20	6.39	6.00	.10		6.43
301	114.25	107.70	57 10	6.40	6.00	.06		6.43
302*	114.15	107.80	57.10	6.40	6.00	.08		6.43
303*	114.25	107.80	57.10	6.39	6.00	.17		6.42
304	114.25	107.85	57.10	6.39	6.00	.11		6.42
305	114.20	107.80	57.00	6.39	6.00	.21		6.43
306	114.25	107.80	57.15	6.39	6.00	.25		6.43
307	114.30	107.80	57.10	6.39	6.00	.10		6.45
308*	114.35	107.75	57.25	6.39	6.00	.14		6.45
309	114.15	107.90	57.15	6.40	6.00	.15		6.44
310	114.15	107.70	57.10	6.40	6.00	.00		6.44
311	114.28	107.70	57.28	6.40	6.00	.03		6.45
312*	114.15	107.70	57.00	6.40	6.00	.07		6.43
313	114.15	107.75	57.00	6.39	6.00	.07		6.44
314	114.25	107.70	57.15	6.39	6.00	.05		6.43
315	114.22	107.70	57.12	6.40	6.00	.12		6.43
316	114.25	107.80	57.25	6.40	6.00	.15		6.44
317	114.28	107.65	57.16	6.40	6.00	.15		6.42
318	114.15	107.70	57.05	6.40	6.00	.06		6.43
319	114.10	107.75	57.10	6.40	6.00	.11		6.43
320†	114.24	107.85	57.04	6.40	6.00	.00		6.42
321	114.10	107.70	57.00	6.44	6.00	.09		6.43
322	114.25	107.70	57.05	6.40	6.00	.03		6.44
323	114.25	107.80	57.07	6.40	6.00	.04		6.44
324	114.15	107.75	57.00	6.41	6.00	.00		6.44
325	114.25	107.70	57.25	6.40	6.00	.09		6.42
326	114.28	107.80	57.18	6.40	6.00	.10		6.45
327	114.30	107.80	57.20	6.40	6.00	.06		6.44
328	114.25	107.80	57.15	6.40	6.00	.16		6.44

* Burst first fire. † Burst second fire.

B.—INSPECTION OF CANNON, BELLONA FOUNDRY—Continued.

VARIATION ALLOWED.	More .05.								
No. of gun.	Diameter of vent.	Position of vent exterior.	Position of vent interior.	Weight of the gun.	Proof range of powder for first charges.	First charges.	Proof range of powder for second charges.	Second charges.	
	.2	6.41	1.60	Pounds.	Yards.	lbs.	oz.	Yards.	lbs. oz.
298	.2	6.38	1.60	7,530	265	18	8	262	14 1
299	.2	6.40	1.60	7,544	237	20	7	262	14 1
300	.2	6.32	1.58	7,550	260	18	15	259	14 4
301*	.2	6.30	1.53	7,534	236	20	8	262	14 1
302*	.2	6.40	1.54	-	236	20	8	-	
303	.2	6.42	1.60	-	236	20	8	-	
304	.3	6.33	1.50	7,538	264	18	9	247	14 13
305	.2	6.32	1.60	7,544	237	20	7	259	14 4
306	.2	6.30	1.55	7,530	264	18	9	260	14 3
307	.2	6.45	1.55	7,517	237	20	7	259	14 4
308*	.2	6.38	1.60	-	247	19	12	-	
309	.2	6.40	1.55	7,542	240	20	3	285	12 15
310	.2	6.30	1.60	7,518	245	19	13	259	14 4
311	.2	6.30	1.60	7,530	246	19	13	259	14 4
312*	.2	6.36	1.60	-	245	19	13	-	
313	.2	6.37	1.60	7,526	271	17	15	258	14 5
314	.2	6.35	1.55	7,542	247	19	12	285	12 15
315	.2	6.25	1.60	7,502	245	19	13	252	14 9
316	.2	6.40	1.60	7,542	247	19	12	285	12 15
317	.2	6.20	1.60	7,526	271	17	15	259	14 4
318	.2	6.38	1.60	7,526	240	20	3	285	12 15
319	.2	6.35	1.60	7,528	258	19	1	252	14 9
320†	.2	6.30	1.55	-	240	20	3	285	12 15
321	.2	6.35	1.60	7,534	258	19	1	271	13 8
322	.2	6.33	1.60	7,522	271	17	15	285	12 15
323	.2	6.30	1.62	7,510	258	19	1	258	14 5
324	.2	6.38	1.62	7,528	258	19	1	247	14 13
325	.2	6.29	1.60	7,524	240	20	3	258	14 5
326	.2	6.28	1.60	7,548	271	17	15	252	14 9
327	.2	6.30	1.60	7,517	245	19	13	252	14 9
328	.2	6.25	1.58	7,537	252	19	7	251	14 9

* Burst first fire. † Burst second fire.

REMARKS.—These guns were proved with Dupont powder; the charges regulated in strict conformity with tables furnished by the Ordnance Department. Twenty barrels of proving powder was recently forwarded to Bellona from Frankford arsenal, where it had been carefully proved by the standard eprouvette; the remainder, about seven barrels, was drawn from the magazine at Bellona, and carefully re-proved immediately before use. It will be perceived that, generally, the guns conform in measurement very closely to the established pattern; seven guns burst in proof—six at the first, and one at the second, discharge. In several instances, the evidence was very conclusive that the breaking had been caused or accelerated by the breaking and wedging of the shot; two shot and two wads were used at both discharges, agreeably to regulations.

W. J. WORTH,
Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, Major Ordnance, and Inspector.
JNO. CHILDE,
Lieutenant and Assistant Inspector.

ERRATA.

July 24th, 1833, examined this report and found the following errors, to wit:

1st. The dimensions under the columns of f. f. and h. h. vary from the deviations allowed by the regulations. The allowances under those two heads may be either $\frac{5}{100}$ of an inch more, or $\frac{5}{100}$ less, than the prescribed dimensions.

2d. The allowance shown over the heading of the "position of the trunnions, above or below the axis of the bore," instead of "$\frac{3}{10}$ of an inch below the axis of the bore," it should be "$\frac{2}{10}$ of an inch."

The guns Nos. 292, 294, 297, and 306, exceed the allowance authorized under the last mentioned head.

3d. The following differences have also been found in the charges, viz:

Second	charge	of gun	No. 261	should be	$14\frac{7}{10}$ lbs.	instead of	$14\frac{6}{10}$ lbs.
First	do.	do.	276	do.	$19\frac{8}{10}$	do.	$19\frac{7}{10}$ do.
First	do.	do.	286	do.	$19\frac{1}{10}$	do.	$19\frac{4}{10}$ do.
First	do.	do.	296	do.	$19\frac{11}{10}$	do.	$20\frac{1}{10}$ do.

(See letter to Colonel Worth of 26th July, 1833, pointing out the above differences.)

C.

BELLONA FOUNDRY, *July* 18, 1833.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my detailed report of the inspection of 72 thirty-two pounder cannon, manufactured by John Clarke, Esq., for the United States; of which number, 65 have been found conformable to the established pattern, sustained the required proof, and been received on account of the United States. Seven burst in the proof—six on the first, and one on the second, discharge. I have also inspected, proved, and received, 834 thirty-two pounder shot, independent of those used in proof.

With high respect,
I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,
W. J. WORTH,
Bt. Lt. Col., Maj. Ordnance, and Inspector.

COL. GEORGE BOMFORD,
Ordnance Corps.

D.

PIKESVILLE ARSENAL, MD.,
May 21, 1836.

COLONEL: I send you, herewith, a letter from Mr. John Childe, late a lieutenant in the army, and assistant to Lieutenant Colonel Worth, the inspector of ordnance. This letter gives a statement of the facts connected

with the proof of guns at Bellona foundry, at which Mr. Childe was present. It is sent to you under the impression that it may be useful when the claim advanced by Major Clarke, for pay for the bursted guns, is brought before the Secretary of War for his decision.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WM. MAYNADIER,
1st Lt. 1st Art.

COL. GEO. BOMFORD,
Chief Ord. Dept., Washington, D. C.

YORK, PA., *May* 10, 1836.

MY DEAR FRIEND MAYNADIER: Yours of the 7th instant came to hand last night. I will, with pleasure, answer the questions you ask respecting the proof of *seven* guns which were bursted at Major Clarke's foundry, in 1833.

1st. The powder was all proved by the regulation eprouvette, immediately before putting it into the proof cartridges.

2d. The quantity of powder put into the cartridges was the same as is prescribed by the Ordnance Regulations, taking 225 yards as the proof range of standard powder. When stronger, the quantity was reduced; when weaker, increased; in accordance with tables furnished for that purpose by the Colonel of Ordnance. I would here remark, that the *strength* and *quantity* of powder fired in each gun proved at Major Clarke's foundry in 1833, were entered on the margin of the inspection report sent to the Ordnance Office, which, I presume, may now be found in that office, on file.

3d. The guns were loaded and fired under my immediate inspection, and in strict accordance with the regulations.

4th. The proof and inspection at Bellona foundry was conducted, in every respect, in exact accordance with the Ordnance Regulations upon that subject, and in precisely the same manner as at all other foundries.

When I left the inspection service, there was a manuscript book in Col. Worth's possession, in which had been entered a rough sketch of each inspection that I attended; embracing, with a general outline of procedure, all uncommon circumstances that occurred at the inspections worthy of recollection. This book probably contains some notes upon the inspection of 1833, at Bellona; and I think you will find something therein about the *seven* bursted guns. The circumstances, however, have passed my recollection.

With many wishes for your health and happiness,
I am truly yours,
JNO. CHILDE.

Lt. WM. MAYNADIER,
United States Army.

P. S.—I shall endeavor to call and see you before I leave this quarter of the country.

E.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May* 28, 1836.

COLONEL: On the 29th of April last I addressed you a letter, giving a statement of facts in relation to the proof of cannon at Bellona foundry, in August, 1834.

I have since seen a letter from Mr. Clarke, the proprietor of that foundry, addressed to the Secretary of War, in which he advances a claim for pay for the bursted guns, on the grounds that the inspecting officers, being newly appointed, were not acquainted with, or experienced in, the inspection and proof of cannon, and that some error in the proof must have been made.

That the inspecting officers were newly appointed was true; but that any error or mistake was made by them in the proof of Mr. Clarke's guns, or any other, I utterly and unequivocally deny. I am positively certain that, at every inspection made after I was appointed to that duty, the most scrupulous attention was paid to the performance of it in a correct manner; and the inspectors never lost sight of the idea that, whilst their duty bound them, for the interest of the Government, to see to the faithful performance of the duties of contractors, the interest of the latter was not to be jeoparded by any want of attention on their part, or by the undue strictness of the inspection or proof. On the contrary, great solicitude was always felt for their interests, and the reputation of their establishments.

That any mistake could have been made in the proof of Mr. Clarke's guns, in August, 1834, is, from the very strict attention paid by the inspectors to the proof of powder and filling of the cartridges, impossible; and he himself, who witnessed both operations, ought to know it. It is not probable that an error so sensibly affecting his interest would have escaped his notice, or have failed to have been corrected by him at the time. Besides, he was distinctly informed by Colonel Worth, (who had burst several guns on the previous inspection at that foundry,) that if he had any objection to urge against the manner of the proof, it should be done before he proceeded further in his operations.

Mr. Clarke seems to think that as Captain Ripley proved sixteen guns of the same manufacture the year following without bursting one, it is clear evidence that the first proof was excessive. Colonel Worth, at the inspection made by him, proved and received *thirty-three* guns—more than double the number received by Captain Ripley of that lot. I have not the least doubt that the sixteen guns proved by Captain Ripley would have been received by Colonel Worth, or any other inspecting officer who might have been directed to prove them under the same regulations; unless, perhaps, Captain R.'s experience (this being the first inspection he ever made) made him a more competent judge of the correct manner of proving cannon. Besides, a year had elapsed since the inspection by Colonel Worth; and it is believed by many that cast iron, especially that of an open, coarse-grained structure, improves in strength by exposure to the atmosphere. On this hypothesis, the different results of the two inspections may be accounted for, without calling in question any officer's attention to the correct performance of his duty. In the proof of the guns newly cast, the elastic fluid, generated by the ignition of the powder and urged by its expansive force, penetrated between the particles, and exerted a separate force on each

tending to separate it from the next. After a year's exposure, the absorption of oxygen from the atmosphere had filled the interstices, and more firmly united the particles, enabling them to resist a force greater than that to which they had previously yielded.

Finally, the guns bursted at Bellona foundry were proved as guns made by all other contractors are proved, and as all the contractors know that they will be proved, before they undertake to make or offer them to the Government. Mr. Clarke, in my opinion, has no just claim on the Government for pay for the bursted guns.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WM. MAYNADIER,
1st Lt. 1st Artillery, In. Ord.

COL. GEO. BOMFORD,
Chief Ord. Dept., Washington, D. C.

K.

WASHINGTON, *May* 28, 1836.

SIR: On the subject of Major Clarke's claim to pay for 16 broken guns, I have very little to state, other than to affirm that the inspection and proof were conducted in strict and rigid accordance with the established regulations; that those regulations were fully explained to him; that he was informed if he had any objections to the regulations, or the manner of administering them, the inspectors would await the further orders of the department; that he was required by the inspectors to be present at, and was actually present, and assisting in proving the powder and weighing the proving-charges, and loading the guns. The mistake, which he supposes may have taken place, had no foundation, save in his imagination. There was no error, except in the quality of his metal.

The Major dwells, with apparent confidence, upon the inexperience of the inspector. The undersigned, with his assistants, had conducted *five* inspections at other foundries before his first visit to Bellona, and *fourteen* before his second. 114 guns were presented by Major Clarke on the occasion of the visits in July, 1833, and August, 1834, of which number, 98 guns were received, and 16 broken. The Major, however, does not find it convenient to his purpose to notice any want of experience in Colonel Worth's successor, who proved (and no doubt with care and accuracy) the remaining sixteen guns, although this was his first and unprepared effort. The question of fitness, however, was, it is presumed, well considered by those who had the appointing power.

In two several inspections at the Pennsylvania foundry, the result was as follows:

20 guns were presented, 11 broken, 9 received.
33 guns were presented, 2 broken, 31 received.

The two broken at the second inspection were of the same lot of metal whereof the first were made. The founders, instead of seeking payment for broken guns, assured of the inferior quality of the metal, took active and successful measures to remedy their own fault, and protect their own interest for the future. Since that period, not a gun has been broken at *their works.*

This case has been referred to, as strikingly contrasting with, and illustrative of, the one in question. I request that all my reports, and all correspondence with the office, may be submitted to the officers to whom the Secretary has referred this matter. The letter accompanying my report of last inspection at Bellona, is annexed to this communication, and particularly referred to.

During the period that I performed the duties of inspector, the correction of abuses, and protection of the Government's interest, were regarded as a paramount duty. But I never ceased to feel a lively solicitude so to perform this duty as not to infringe on the rights and proper interests of the founders.

I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
W. J. WORTH,
Lieutenant Colonel.

Col. GEO. BOMFORD,
Ordnance corps.

FRANKFORD ARSENAL, *August* 15, 1834.

SIR: I have the honor to forward a detailed report of the recent inspection at Bellona foundry: 58 guns were presented and inspected, and 42 proved; of which latter number 9 were broken, *eight* on the first, and *one* on the second fire, and 33 accepted.

Having in view the misfortunes of this founder on the preceding inspection, and his prejudices against the method of ascertaining the strength of powder, (by use of the established eprouvette,) no means were left untried to arrive at the greatest practicable accuracy. Every circumstance will be found carefully noted on the detailed report. It will be recollected that, heretofore, Major Clarke raised great objections to the use of two round shot, to the breaking and wedging of which, in the passage through the gun, he mainly ascribed the bursting. On this occasion, cylinder shot was used, except, at his suggestion, in the last three guns tried, two of which broke in like manner with the preceding. The powder used (with the exception of eight charges for the second fire) was sent from this arsenal the 29th of April last, selected from among the lowest range on hand by the proof of 1833. I have noted, on the detailed report, the proof of this same powder in July, 1829, November, 1833, and now at the time of its use. The season, added to partial deterioration, will account for the difference in the first two proofs. The last, the time of use, brings it up again nearly to the first, 1829, which is accounted for satisfactorily to the inspectors: 1st, by its deposite, for the period of three months, in one of the best magazines in the United States, subject to the action of southern heat; 2d, its being necessarily exposed some hours, when verifying the proof, to an intemperate heat. Still it did not exceed the proof of 1829, and was within the prescribed limits. The eprouvette used was No. 11, of the 17 new ones, which, from less use, doubtless gave higher ranges (and, consequently, greater reductions in quantity by the tables) than that of the same series in use at this arsenal. An opinion as to the true cause of the failure will be found on the detailed report.

The supply of Dupont's powder at this arsenal, whence, by existing orders, it is drawn for proving purposes, is exhausted. I now beg leave again to request authority, either by exchange or purchase, to contract for a sufficient quantity for the next year's proof; and especially for the completion of Major Clarke's proof in December, of the precise range of 225 yards. I do not attach much importance to it, but the founder does. Such an arrangement, therefore, will take from him all cause of complaint, and relieve the inspectors from painful and unsatisfactory discussions.

The proof was discontinued at the request of the founder. I have taken great pains to possess the department of all the facts in the case, in view of a correspondence which I foresee will ensue. Sixteen inspected but unproved guns remain, and nine are to be made to complete his complement.

The practice of plugging shot was observed. All such were rejected, and notice given that in future any such practice would be deemed sufficient cause for abandonment of the inspection. The founder stated that special orders had been given to that effect.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
W. J. WORTH,
Bt. Lt. Col., Maj. Ord., and Inspector.

Col. GEO. BOMFORD,
Ordnance corps.

STATEMENT of all the proofs and inspections of ordnance and projectiles made by Lt. Col. Worth, whilst inspector; showing the number of guns and shot of each caliber received and rejected.

Date.	Foundry.	No. of guns.	Rec'vd	Rejected.*	No. of shot.	Rec'vd.	Reject'd.
1832, Nov.	Columbia	20 iron	20				
1832, Dec.	Pittsburgh	20	9	11			
1833, April	Pittsburgh	33	31	2			
1833, May	West Point	34	34				
1833, July 1	West Point	11	11				
1833, July 18	Bellona	72	65	7			
1833, Sept.	Pittsburgh	34	34				
1833, Dec.	Pittsburgh	21	21				
1834, Jan.	Columbia	8	8				
1834, April	Pittsburgh	27	27	-	790	-	102
1834, May	West Point	20	20				
1834, May	Columbia	14	14	-	1,847	1,230	617
1834, July 19	Columbia	12	12	-	2,400		
1834, July 26	West Point	25	25	-	527	310	217
1834, August	Bellona	42	33	9	637	532	105
1834, October	Pittsburgh	25	25				
1834, Dec.	West Point	6 brass	-	6			

*The reasons for the rejection of any gun, shot, or shell, are set forth in full on the detailed report made immediately after each inspection to the Colonel of Ordnance; which reports accompany this statement.

L.

WASHINGTON, *June* 18, 1836.

SIR: The Commanding General and Inspector General, to whom the case of Major Clarke was referred, would make the following report:

From the statements furnished, it appears that Major Clarke cast for the United States, between the 10th of June, 1829, and the 25th June, 1832, two hundred and fifty-six 32-pounder cannon, of which only one burst, under the inspection and proof of Colonel Bankhead and Lieutenant Symington. It also appears that he cast for the United States seventy-two 32-pounder cannon, which were inspected and proved by Lieutenant Colonel Worth, and Lieutenant Child, the 18th of July, 1833, of which 7 burst; and also 42 on the 7th of August, 1834, which were inspected by Lieutenant Colonel Worth and Lieutenant Maynadier, of which 9 burst. On the 9th of July, 1835, he furnished forty-five 32-pounders, 16 of which were of the same parcel inspected by Lieutenant Colonel Worth and Lieutenant Maynadier, of which none burst in the proof made by Captain Ripley and Lieutenant Maynadier. The whole number of 32-pounder cannon furnished by Major Clarke for inspection and proof, from the 10th June, 1829, and the 9th of July, 1835, amounts to 415, of which 17 burst in the proving. Of this number, 16 burst under the inspection and proof of Lieutenant Colonel Worth.

Major Clarke states that the iron, casting, and the manufacture of his guns, throughout the whole number, were in all respects the same: therefore, and from the fact that of three hundred and one 32-pounders proved previous to any inspection made by Lieutenant Colonel Worth, only one burst, and from the further fact, that, of 45 subsequently proved by Captain Ripley, none burst, that Lieutenant Colonel Worth must have committed some error in the preparation of the proof-charges, and that they must have been much stronger than any charges previously used by Colonel Bankhead, or subsequently used by Captain Ripley. Hence he infers the bursting of his guns, for which he claims remuneration.

In answer to which it appears, from the inspection reports of Lieutenant Colonel Worth, Lieutenant Child, and Lieutenant Maynadier, that the inspection and proof of the guns for which Major Clarke claims remuneration, and inspected by them, was in all respects conformable to the regulations prescribed by the Ordnance Department, and precisely the same as used for the proof of cannon at all other foundries. Each and all assert, with the utmost confidence, there could have been no mistake or error committed in the preparation of the proof-charges for any part of the guns proved at the foundry of Major Clarke.

It, however, appears remarkable, and perhaps extraordinary, that so great a difference should appear in the result of the proof of his guns, and that, with the exception of one gun, all should have burst in the two inspections made by Lieutenant Colonel Worth; and yet we have nothing before us to call in question, or in any respect to doubt the accuracy of the inspections or the reports and statements of the inspectors, who we conceive could not have had any other motive than a rigid and faithful discharge of their duty.

After a careful investigation of the subject under consideration, we have arrived at the conclusion that the proving of the guns referred to, as having been bursted by Lieutenant Colonel Worth, was done in conformity with

the established regulations governing the Ordnance Department, and we believe there must have been some defect in the guns which did not stand the proof. The fact that so many guns have stood the prescribed proof at Bellona arsenal, as well as at every other foundry, is a strong presumption that the proof to which the guns have been subjected is not too great. This is supported by the further evidence that no complaints of the proof being too great has ever been made to the Ordnance Department, by any person who contracted to furnish the Government with cannon, but Major Clarke. The circumstance to which he has alluded, and to which he appears strongly to rely in support of his claim for remuneration, that the British prove their iron guns witha less charge than the United States, will not, we think, add or give strength to his claim. The British prove their 32-pounders weighing from 6,160 to 6,496 lbs., with 21lbs. 8oz. powder, one shot and two wads. The United States prove the same guns, weighing 7,500lbs., with 21lbs. 4oz. powder, two shot, and two wads. The British repeat the same proof, but the United States reduce the quantity of powder from 21lbs. 4oz. to 16lbs., with two shot and two wads. It may, however, be a subject worthy of consideration, whether the proof as established by the Ordnance Department ought not to be changed, so far, at least, as to prove with one shot instead of two. This is suggested from the circumstance that it has been found by experience that two shot fired at the same time, under a heavy charge, are subject to be broken, and when thus broken are liable to cut grooves in the iron as they pass through the bore of the pieces, and it is possible that the fragments might be so wedged in as to burst the gun.

It is, however, worthy of particular notice, that the charges used in proving the guns in question was less than any proof, by 25 yards, since used for the same purpose; and since the proof charge has been increased, not a single gun, as we are informed by the Ordnance Department, has burst, under the increased proof-charge, which is now 250 yards.

We have the honor to be, sir,
Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servants,
ALEX. MACOMB,
Major General.
JOHN E. WOOL,
Brig. Gen. and Ins. Gen. U. S. Army.

To the Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

M.

Letter to Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Worth, regulating the proof-charges for cannon, based on the standard proof range of 225 yards.

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
Washington, November 29, 1832.

SIR: The proof charges of powder, as established by the present regulations for the proof of the heavy ordnance, are two-thirds of the weight of the shot for the first charge, and one-half of the weight of the shot for the second charge. But since the strength of the serviceable powder now in

the magazines varies so much (as indicated by the new eprouvette) as between 200 and 300 yards, the graduation of the charges to be used in the proof of cannon, according to this variety in the quality of the powder, becomes a matter of importance; for it is obvious that whatever quality of powder is used in the charges, they should be so increased or diminished as to produce, in all cases, if possible, the same explosive force upon the gun. To effect this, it is necessary that some particular quality of powder should be adopted as a standard, so that, of that quality the full charges of two-thirds and one-half the weight of the shot may, in all cases, be used in the proof of heavy cannon. As it is not desired at present to deviate from the standard heretofore in use in this department, that of 200 yards by the old eprouvette will still be continued. But as all the powder now in the magazines is tested by the new eprouvette, which gives a range about 12½ per cent. greater than the old one, the standard of 200 yards by this last will thus become 225 yards by the new eprouvette, and this, therefore, will be considered, until further orders, as the proof range of the standard powder; of which, the full charges of two-thirds and one-half the weight of the shot will, in all cases when it can be obtained, be used in the proof of heavy cannon.

But as standard powder cannot always be obtained, it hence becomes necessary to increase or diminish the quantity used in the standard charges, according as the proof range of the powder to be used is less or greater than the standard proof range.

To be enabled to make this graduation of the charges, according to the quality of the powder, an experiment was directed by this department to be made with the eprouvette, at the arsenal in this city, in 1826; the result of which is satisfactory, and is as follows:

Reduced charges of the 11 different kinds of powder; each charge being equal in effect one with another, and also to the standard charge (E.)	Ounce charges of the eprouvette for 11 different kinds of powder, giving ranges as in 4th column.	Weight of the reduced charge of the eprouvette in grains of the same quality of powder.	Medium range.	32-POUNDER.		24-POUNDER.	
				Proof-charges, corresponding to two thirds weight of shot. (Standard powder.)	Proof-charges, corresponding to one-half weight of shot. (Standard powder.)	Proof charges, corresponding to two-thirds weight of shot. (Standard powder.)	Proof-charges, corresponding to one-half weight of shot. (standard powder.)
Grains.	Oz. Grs.	Oz. grs.	Yards.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
335.0	1 – 137½	1 437½	305	16.33	12.25	12.25	9.18
(D)351.0	(A)1 –	(B)30 417½	(G)288	(H)17.11	12.84	12.84	9.63
368.7	1	40 397½	271	17.97	13.48	13.48	10.11
388.3	1	60 377½	260	18.93	14.20	14.20	10.65
410.1	1	80 357½	243	19.98	14.99	14.99	11.23
434.3	1	100 337½	227	21.17	15.88	15.88	11.91
(*E)437.5	1	102.5 335	(C)225	(F)21.33	16.00	16.00	12.00
461.6	1	120 317½	207	22.50	16.88	16.88	12.66
476.6	1	130 307	200	23.23	17.42	17.42	13.06
492.6	1	140 297	190	24.01	18.01	18.01	13.05
528.1	1	160 277½	168	25.74	19.31	19.31	14.47

*Standard charge.

The third column shows the charges used, and the fourth column the result of the experiment. The ranges are perceived to be so regular as to be reduced generally by about 17 yards for every reduction of 20 grains in the charge.

The second column shows the ounce charges of 11 different kinds of powder; the ranges corresponding, being the same with those in the fourth column. The fifth and sixth, and seventh and eighth columns show the reduced proof-charges for the 32 and 24-pounders, as obtained from the data in the other columns.

To explain the principle on which these reduced charges were obtained, it is necessary to observe, first, with regard to the third column, that it indicates 11 different charges of the *same kind* of powder, producing 11 different ranges, as given in the fourth column; and that the same ranges are also produced by 11 *ounce charges* of 11 *different kinds* of powder, as in the second column; the effect of each of these last charges, formed from different qualities of powder, being equal to that of its corresponding charge in the third column in producing the same range. If, for example, we wished to reduce the charge (B) in the third column to such a degree as when fired from the eprouvette, it will produce the standard range (C) of 225 yards, we would diminish it by (417.5—335=) 82½ grains. But the charge (B), though of a different kind of powder from that of the charge (A), is exactly equal to it in effect, as they both produce the same range of 288 yards; if, therefore, in reducing the charge (B) by 82½ grains we give it the standard range of 225 yards, we shall, in like manner, by reducing its equal, (in effect the charge (A) by a proportional quantity, obtain a charge of powder (D) (of the same quality with that of (A) which will also give the standard range of 225 yards.

To give an example of the method of obtaining the charges in the first column—

As the charge B, (417½ grains): (417½—335=) 82½ grains:: charge A, (=437½ grains): 86.4 grains, which is the quantity according to which the charge (A) ought to be reduced, in order to make the reduction proportional to that of (B); 86.4 grains being therefore deducted from charge (A) =437½ grains, leaves the charge (D) equal to 351 grains, as seen in the table.

In this manner all the ounce charges, (of the second column,) which are taken from 11 different qualities of powder, are reduced to the corresponding charges in the first column, which last are all of equal strength one with another, each producing the standard range of 225 yards; the standard charge (E) in this column being equal to one ounce, and all above it less, and all below it greater, than one ounce.

We have, therefore, in the first column a series of 11 charges of different qualities of powder, (these qualities being indicated in the fourth column,) all giving the standard range, viz. 225 yards, and having, therefore, the same effect upon the eprouvette; and it is next necessary to find a series of proof-charges (for the 32-pounder for example) corresponding to these different qualities of powder, and all being equal in effect to the standard proof-charge (F) 21.33 lbs., and exerting, therefore, the same effect upon the gun. Now, as all the reduced proof-charges of the eprouvette in the first column are equal in effect to that of the standard proof-charge (E); and as all the reduced proof-charges for cannon (for example, in the fifth column,) ought to be equal in effect to that of the standard proof-charge,

(F) 21.33 lbs.) it is hence evident that these last in column five ought to be directly proportional to the former in the first column; and this is the principle on which the charges in the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th columns have been determined. To give an example: in finding the charge in the fifth column which corresponds to the range (G) of 288 yards: as the charge E=(437.5 grains): D=(351 grains):: F=(21.33 lbs.): H=(17.11 lbs.): which, as seen in the fifth column, is the required reduction of powder giving 288 yards; and so far the other charges in this statement, and for all other cases of the reduction of charges for cannon of other calibers.

The general principle used in the above statement, in obtaining the charges for the proof of cannon by reference to corresponding reduced charges of the eprouvette, giving the same range, is esteemed to be the only correct one; and it is believed, if charges so large as these could be tested by the balastic pendulum, that the initial velocities would be found to be nearly equal.

I have to direct, in conclusion, that the several charges set forth in the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th columns for the proof of the 32 and 24-pounders, be used in the proof of those calibers until further orders, and that no powder be hereafter used in the proof of cannon giving a proof range greater than 290 yards, or less than 190 yards.

Your report, that you consider the charges of powder used in the latter part of the late inspection as insufficient, has led to the above investigation of the subject, and it is now hoped that these charges are established with suitable regard to the interest of the Government, and to what, in justice, is due to the founder.

Respectfully, I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
GEO. BOMFORD,
Colonel of Ordnance.

Major W. J. WORTH,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

No. 1.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The petition of John Clarke, of Virginia,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That your petitioner is the proprietor of a cannon foundry and boring mills on James river a few miles above the city of Richmond, called the Bellona works. He was induced to erect them by the solicitation of the Government during the administration of President Madison, for the manufacture of ordnance for the service of the United States. [See the letter of the late President Monroe, addressed to your petitioner dated 29th December, 1816, marked A, to which is annexed an extract from Colonel Bomford's (printed) report to the Secretary of War, dated 29th November, 1825.]

Before that time your petititioner had been engaged by the Governme of Virginia to form the plan, construct the works, machinery, &c., and

perintend the operations of the State manufactory of arms, at Richmond; an extensive establishment, in which more than two hundred artificers were employed in the manufacture of small arms and field artillery, for the militia of Virginia; and which was continued until the General Government took upon itself to supply arms to the militia of the States.

The iron used at his works is from the upper counties of Virginia, on and near James river; and he is thoroughly convinced, by the experience of thirty years, and by numerous comparative experiments of the best pig iron of Great Britain, and of several of the States of this Union, that the James river iron used by him, is superior in strength and toughness to any other that he has ever tried. It is chiefly of that iron, mixed and tempered by a uniform process, that his guns are made. And he challenges a comparison of them with any others, manufactured either in America or Europe. [See the accompanying letters of the late Colonel Decius Wadsworth, then at the head of the ordnance corps, to the Secretary of War, marked B and C; also, letters and certificates (marked D, E, F, G, H) of the late Captain John Hills, of the ordnance corps—an officer highly qualified by many years of practical experience, in the inspection and proof of ordnance.] The original letters may be seen by reference to the records of the War and Ordnance offices.

When 32-pounder cannon were required for the fortifications, your petitioner made the first or pattern gun; and when the first parcel thereof, consisting of 58 guns, were proved, in June, 1829, one of them was burst, with too strong a charge, before there was any experience in respect to the strength of the proof-charges proper for those guns.

The whole number of 32-pounder cannon for fortifications, manufactured by your petitioner previous to the end of the year 1836, is four hundred and forty-six. The greater part of those guns were proved at different periods between the years 1828 and 1833, under the regulations of the Ordnance Department, and by skilful proving officers; and save the single gun of the first parcel aforesaid, not a gun was burst. But after the formation of the new ordnance corps, the inspection and proof of ordnance for the service of the United States was committed to an officer newly initiated into that corps, and without the aid of experience in the proof of ordnance; he burst sixteen of those excellent 32-pounder cannon. Your petitioner, witnessing the unprecedented destruction of cannon of as good quality as he ever made, objected to the continuation of the proof by that officer; and he accordingly discontinued the proof, leaving sixteen of the same parcel of guns unproved, which 16 guns, together with 60 others, (making seventy-six 32-pounder cannon,) have since that time been proved by another proving officer, and not a gun of the whole number burst.

All those 446 guns were made, not only at the same works, but of the same pattern, in the same manner, of the same kind of iron, and by the same skilful artificers. And when it is considered that, save the single gun of the first parcel aforesaid, the whole 446 guns withstood proof, excepting the 16 guns which were bursted by the said newly appointed proving officer, and that it was only by him that any of those guns were bursted, either before or after he acted as proving officer, the conclusion is irresistible that the guns proved by him were subjected to an unusual and excessive test, and that the destruction of the 16 bursted guns was occasioned by some error or defect in the proof, arising from mistake, or the want of experience of the proving officer. This conclusion is rendered still more ir-

resistible by the fact that the proofs made by him were attended with evidences of excessive violence, not only unusual, but, in the experience of your petitioner, wholly without example. The recoil of the guns while undergoing proof was nearly double what had ever been before, or has been since. A fragment of one of the bursted guns, weighing several hundred pounds, was thrown several hundred yards from the proving ground, through one of the principal buildings of the United States arsenal; and many other fragments were thrown to still greater distances.

Your petitioner does not desire to say any thing derogatory of the character of the officer who burst the 16 guns. But, however well qualified for the performance of other duties, he certainly was not experienced in the proof of ordnance; and, in the opinion of your petitioner, there is no service in which the aid of experience is more necessary, to counteract the dangerous errors to which the present mode of proving ordnance is liable.

When your petitioner was induced, by the highest officers of the Government, to build the Bellona works for the manufacture of ordnance for the United States, it was certainly intended that the pieces of artillery made at those works should undergo the usual proof of similar pieces at works where the greatest experience in the proving of cannon had been attained; and that the inspection and proof thereof should be conducted by men well qualified by practical experience in the performance of that important service. Whether that has been done in the case now submitted for your consideration, you will decide. The Bellona works and machinery are constructed in the most permanent manner, and on the most improved plan; and the records of the War and Ordnance offices will show that, according to the opinions of the most experienced and able judges, the pieces of ordnance manufactued at those works are, for quality of metal, neatness and exactness of execution, and strength, equal if not superior to any pieces of artillery made in the United States.

Your petitioner has faithfully performed his part of the undertaking, at great expense, and with profits inferior to the interest upon the original cost of his works. And, as his guns when made are inspected and proved under the sole management and control of an agent of the Government, your petitioner conceives himself entitled to indemnity against loss or damage happening by reason of either the error or the want of experience of the proving officer.

In the month of April last, your petitioner applied for compensation for the 16 bursted guns to Gen. Cass, Secretary of War; and as that application was founded upon the inexperience and unfitness of an officer who was appointed by the ordnance corps to prove the ordnance for the Government, it was expected by your petitioner that the Secretary of War, after his making full investigation, would decide the case himself, not that he would refer it to the ordnance corps by whom the said proving officer was appointed, and who, it might be presumed, would be unwilling to admit the fallibility of a proving officer who was but recently appointed by that corps. But to the astonishment of your petitioner, the Secretary of War (General Cass) did transmit the papers and refer the case of your petitioner to Colonel Bomford, the head of the Ordnance corps, for his report thereon. That officer, however, declined making a report, under an apprehension, perhaps, that, if he should make a report unfavorable to your petitioner, he might be accused of injustice; and if he should make a report favorable to your petitioner, it would be an acknowledgement of the incompetency of said proving officer, and would reflect an imputation on that department itself, for

having appointed such an officer, to perform duties so highly important to this nation. He therefore caused the said proving officer and his assistants, by whom the guns were bursted, to attend in person at the ordnance office; and after obtaining letters from them in behalf of themselves, those letters, with the two letters which your petitioner had addressed to the Secretary of War, were transmitted by Colonel Bomford (without any written report from himself) to the Secretary of War, who afterwards caused those papers to be sent to Generals Macomb and Wool, for consideration and report; and near the termination of the last session of Congress, those gentlemen made a report. But that report was founded upon the assertions made in the letter of Lieutenant Colonel Worth, the very officer and his assistants who destroyed the said 16 guns; and, so far as it respects your petitioner, the report of the two Generals is, in effect, the report of the said Lieutenant Colonel Worth, who doubtless made every effort in his power to free himself from the imputation of being unqualified for the inspection and proof of ordnance.

But he not only thinks himself qualified for proving cannon, but that he is also qualified to judge of the qualities of the metals proper for their manufacture; for he says in his letter to Colonel Bomford, upon which letter Generals Macomb and Wool have founded their report, that "*there was no error except in the quality of his metal;*" by which he endeavors to induce a belief that the guns were burst in consequence of the bad quality of the metal, and not by any error or want of qualification in himself. His opinion, however, is in direct conflict with the opinions of numerous persons, who, by their long actual use of iron, have become the best judges of its quality. The Bellona works have been in operation about twenty years, and numerous pieces of ordnance, of various descriptions, for the sea and the land service, have been made there, and proved by many well qualified officers; and they, as well as others who are considered to be the best judges, have declared *that iron* to be of the toughest and very best quality. Lieutenant Colonel Worth stands alone in his opinion, which I never knew until I saw it mentioned in his said letter to Colonel Bomford; and had it not been necessary to exonerate himself from the charge of incompetency, he perhaps never would have thought of advancing such a charge against the quality of the iron.

In the same letter, he has also asserted that your petitioner "*assisted in weighing the proving-charges and loading the guns,*" which your petitioner positively denies, and solemnly declares that he did not assist in weighing the proof charges, nor did he know the quantity of powder which Lieutenant Colonel Worth and his assistants put into his proof-charges, nor did he assist in loading the guns; which duties belong exclusively to the proving officer, and with which your petitioner never did, on any occasion, meddle or interfere.

The eprouvette used in the United States for testing the strength of gunpowder, is a small mortar, with a caliber suited to fit a 24-pound cannon ball, at the bottom of which caliber there is a small chamber for containing one ounce avoirdupois of powder, which, when the axis of the caliber is placed at an angle of 45 degrees, must propel the 24lb. ball 200 yards, (measured horizontally) otherwise the powder would not be deemed to possess sufficient strength for standard powder. Such was the kind of proof to which powder was subjected in the year 1816; and the same kind of eprouvette is used at this time.

This mode of testing the strength of gun-powder, when the eprouvette

is in its best condition and without windage, is subject to great variation and inaccuracy, in consequence of the density or the rarity of the air through which the ball is projected. But, by frequent use, the caliber of the eprouvette is soon worn larger, by the friction of the ball; so that much windage is the consequence, and a considerable portion of the force of that small quantity of powder is lost in the windage between the ball and the caliber of the eprouvette. And as the distance to which the ball is propelled depends much upon the greater or lesser degree of the windage, and as the windage is always increased by the use and consequent wear and enlargement of the caliber, the real strength of gun-powder cannot be ascertained by such eprouvettes.

The calibers of the eprouvettes are so much enlarged that a 25lb. ball instead of a 24 lb. ball became necessary to fill the caliber; and as the weight of the ball has been increased, the weight of the powder which propels it, should be increased in the same proportion. But that has not been done, and the one ounce of powder must be of such strength as to propel a 25lb. ball 200 yards, whereas it was formerly required to be of sufficient strength to propel a 24lb. ball 200 yards.

But within a few years the standard range by the eprouvette was increased, and the powder was required to be of such strength that one ounce thereof should propel the 25lb. ball 225 yards instead of 200, as formerly. And more recently, the Ordnance Department has again increased the standard range by the eprouvette; and the powder is required to be of such a degree of strength that one ounce thereof shall propel the 25lb. ball 250 yards, instead of 225, to which, not long before, it had been increased from 200 yards.

A 42-pounder cannon (the largest class of our guns) requires for one proof-charge 28lbs. or 448 ounces of powder; and can it be imagined that, by a 448th part of such a charge, (only one ounce of powder,) fired from such eprouvettes, and under the circumstances above stated, the real strength of gun-powder can be ascertained.

The British nation, who have manufactured more cannon, and had more experience in the proof, as well as the actual use of it, than any other nation, *prove their cannon with only one cannon ball in each proof-charge.* For example, they prove a 42-pounder cannon by firing twice a proof-charge of 25 *lbs. of powder, one ball, and two wads.* The Americans (less experienced) prove a 42-pounder cannon with 28*lbs. of powder, two balls, and two wads,* in the first proof-charge; and in the second proof-charge, 21*lbs. of powder, two balls, and two wads.* Thus there are 3lbs. of powder more, and double the weight of shot, used in our first proof-charge (which is the most straining charge) than there is in the first proof-charge for the British gun; which the books on gunnery will show, and they shall be seen if required.

The officers who prove ordnance for the United States have informed your petitioner that they were directed by the Ordnance Department that, for any excess of strength in the powder beyond the standard range of the ball from the eprouvette, the quantity or weight thereof should be reduced in the proof-charge in proportion to the strength of the powder. Your petitioner, however, knows not by what rule the reductions are made.

But such a procedure, instead of affording a remedy, is attended with most destructive effects, which your petitioner will endeavor to explain: Suppose the strength of the powder used in the proof of cannon should be double as great as the strength of standard powder; then, instead of the full

weight and bulk of a proof-charge of standard powder, only one-half of that weight and bulk is taken of the extra strong powder, and made a proof-charge, instead of a proof-charge of standard powder. That proof-charge of extra strong powder having all the strength, and occupying only half the space or number of superficial inches within the caliber, which would have been occupied by a proof-charge of standard powder, every superficial inch, therefore, of the caliber occupied by the extra strong powder, is subjected to double the degree of stress or straining force that it would have been subjected to, if the gun had been proved with powder of standard strength. And it is not to be expected that cannon, whose thickness of metal is proportioned to sustain the strength of standard powder, should withstand the force of powder of double that strength.

In Great Britain, whenever the powder exceeds the standard strength, it is *mixed* with a weaker powder, so as to bring it to the standard degree of strength. [See Beauchant's Naval Gunner, published in London in the year 1829.] And it is much to be regretted, that the same method is not invariably practiced in this country. But the powder used in the proof of ordnance here, is much stronger than even the very high degree of strength required for standard powder by the Ordnance Department; and when this extra strong powder is sent to prove cannon, no weaker powder is sent to be mixed with that which is excessively strong, so as to produce the standard degree of strength; and the proving officers proceed to prove the guns with the excessively strong powder alone, or unmixed with weaker powder, in the manner already mentioned, which is attended with most ruinous effects.

It is found that two shot, in one charge fired from a cannon, range to only half the distance of one shot, with the same charge of powder, and at the same elevation; therefore, in service, it is only for short distances that cannon are double shotted, and then they are fired with less than one-third of the weight of their proof-charges in powder; otherwise, the balls split within the guns, and the recoil is too violent. [See Beauchant's, also Adye's Gunnery, respecting the charges for cannon, and the splitting or breaking of shot, which shall be seen if required.] It having been demonstrated that the shot split and break in pieces within the gun when double shotted and fired with less than one third of its proof-charge in powder, it is most evident that the gun, when double shotted and fired with its full proof-charge of powder, will produce effects vastly more injurious; and why, therefore, should guns, when subjected to proof, be double shotted? It is, doubtless, for the reasons above stated, that the British gunners prove their cannon with only one shot in the proof-charge, which is demonstrated to be fully sufficient for testing the strength of guns, without overstraining them; and, in the opinion of your petitioner, that injurious practice ought to be abandoned in our country.

Two cannon balls can touch each other only in a single point; and, in the caliber of a gun, when subjected to proof with an excessively strong proof charge, that small point, unable to withstand the immense and instantaneous impetus with which the hindmost shot is driven against the foremost while it is at rest, the shot inevitably break (as is well known, and may be seen if required) into conical pieces, or rounding wedges, which, being driven into the shot, split them, and, by enlarging their diameters, burst the guns; and when the guns thus proved do not happen to burst, the angular pieces of the broken shot driven out with so great a degree of

violence as to cut such deep grooves in their calibres as to render them unfit for service. Such was the case in relation to five 24-pounder cannon made at the Bellona works for our sloops of war; and although those excellent guns were ruined and useless, they were paid for by the Navy Department, as well as other guns which *did burst* with such excessive proof.

To prevent the evils resulting from the breaking of the *two shot* in the caliber of the gun while undergoing proof with excessive charges, recourse was had to proving with *one shot of cylindrical form, but of double the weight of one round shot.* Yet the guns thus proved were also bursted, and will inevitably burst with the great excess of strength in the charges with which they are proved.

Some years past, the Ordnance Department caused 17 eprouvettes to be made for proving the gnu-powder manufactured for the United States; and the following table is a list of them, and their several respective *ranges*, furnished from that department, and is as follows:

Proof ranges of 17 eprouvettes.

No.		Yards.	No.		Yards.	No.		Yards.
1	range	295¼	7	range	284	13	range	308
2	"	*274	8	"	275½	14	"	303½
3	"	*312	9	"	292½	15	"	302
4	"	309	10	"	292	16	"	304½
5	"	289	11	"	290½	17	"	307½
6	"	289½	12	"	303½			

Each of these 17 eprouvettes give a different range to the 25 lb. ball: and between the highest range, i. e. 312 yards, and the lowest range, 274 yards, there is a difference of 38 yards. Your petitioner was informed that when those eprouvettes were made, each of them was fired a considerable number of times with one ounce of powder of the same kind and strength; and there being a difference in the distance to which the ball was propelled at each of those fires, the medium of those distances was taken as the range of that particular eprouvette; and so on, respectively, throughout the whole of the 17 eprouvettes.

As the eprouvettes all differ in their respective ranges, how is the standard strength of powder to be ascertained by them? The proving officers were directed to reduce the quantity of powder in the proof-charge in proportion to the excess of the strength of the powder. But by which of the eprouvettes, and what number of yards of the range of that particular eprouvette, is to be taken as the standard range or distance on which they are to make the reduction?

Your petitioner has been informed that the 17 eprouvettes (on each of which is engraved its number, from 1 to 17, as per the above table) have been distributed; one to each of the United States arsenals, and one to each of the manufactories of cannon. Now, the range for standard powder last adopted by the Ordnance Department (i. e. 250 yards) being deducted from the respective ranges of the eprouvettes, (all of which differ,) and the excess or overplus number of yards being taken to determine how much the proof-charge of extra strong powder shall be reduced, there conse-

quently is a considerable difference in the strength of the proof-charges used in proving cannon at the several cannon foundries at which they are made. At some of those foundries, the largest class of guns may be subjected to proof with several pounds more of extra strong powder in the proof-charge than guns of the same description are proved with at other foundries.

The manufacture of gun-powder has been greatly improved within a few years; and the great importance of that material, in the defence of our national rights, requires that its best or most advantageous effects in the use of cannon and other fire-arms, should be fully ascertained. That degree of strength in powder which will produce the longest ranges or greatest distances to which balls from cannon can be propelled, may, by *experiments*, be ascertained; and when ascertained, that degree (your petitioner humbly conceives) should be established as the standard rate of strength for gun-powder.

By the skilful labors of scientific men, under the authority and patronage of the British Government, the art of gunnery and the proof of ordnance have been brought to greater perfection in that country than in any other. Those skilful men, after numerous experiments, have demonstratively ascertained the different velocities, ranges, and effects of cannon balls, when propelled by great, by medium, and by small charges of powder; and that, in consequence of the immense resistance of the air in great velocities, the following effects are produced:

Maxim 4. "The ranges of pieces at a given elevation are no just measures of the velocity of the shot; for the same piece, fired successively at an invariable elevation, with the powder, bullet, and every other circumstance as nearly the same as possible, will range to very different distances."

Maxim 7. "That action of the air, by which it retards the motion of projectiles, is, in many instances, an immense force; and hence, the motion of these resisted bodies is totally different from what has been generally supposed."

Maxim 8. "This retarding force of the air acts with different degrees of violence, according as the projectile moves with a greater or lesser velocity; and the resistances observe this law, that to a velocity which is double another, the resistance (within certain limits) is four-fold, and to a treble velocity, nine-fold; and so on."

Maxim 13. "If the same piece of cannon be successively fired at an invariable elevation, but with various charges of powder, the greatest charge being the whole weight of the bullet in powder, and the least not less than one-fifth of that weight, then, if the elevation be not less than eight or ten degrees, it will be found that some of the ranges, with the least charge, will exceed some of those with the greatest."

Maxim 20. "No field piece ought, at any time, to be loaded with more than one-sixth, or, at the utmost, one-fifth of the weight of its bullet in powder; nor should the charge of any battering piece exceed one-third of the weight of its bullet."

In the American edition of the New Edinburgh Encyclopædia, under the head of Gunnery, see the above quoted practical maxims relative to the effects and management of artillery—the flight of shot and shells.

As the great and variable resistance of the air prevents the strength of powder from being ascertained by the distance to which balls are thrown, even by repeated discharges from the same piece of *long cannon*, loaded

each time with the same weight and quality of powder, how can it be imagined that its strength can be ascertained by our eprouvette? A small mortar, with a caliber suited to a 25lb. shot, and by the ignition of only one ounce of powder in that mortar, whose caliber is only a few inches long, and in which the powder cannot exert its full force in consequence of its shortness.

In preference to so uncertain a method for proving powder, as projecting a ball through the ever-varying and elastic atmosphere to a given distance, some experienced men in Great Britain have found that a more decisive experiment is, to try the penetration of the bullet into some uniform substance placed a small distance before the muzzle of the piece. It would, however, be difficult to procure a perfectly uniform substance at every place where cannon are proved.

But the mode most eligible, in the humble opinion of your petitioner, would be, to cause the force of a pound, or perhaps less, of powder to act against gravitation, (which never varies,) by throwing up, vertically, a heavy weight of iron from a piece of cannon, or a tube of iron, whose length should be equal to the length of the caliber of the cannon, which may be easily done, and would certainly be much more accurate than the method now practised.

The standard rate of strength for British gun-powder is as follows:

The powder must be of such strength, that 4 *ounces* thereof shall propel, from an eight-inch mortar, at forty-five degrees elevation, a 68lb. iron ball 380 feet, or 126 yards and 2 feet.

[See Morton's British Gunner, published in London, in the year 1828.]

The standard rate of strength adopted by the Ordnance Department for gun-powder for the United States, is as follows:

The powder must be of such strength, that *one* ounce thereof shall propel, from a mortar of suitable caliber, at forty-five degrees elevation, a 25lb. iron ball 750 feet, or 250 yards.

Thus it is seen that the strength of powder, required by the Ordnance Department, is of considerable more than double the strength of British standard powder. Moreover, that department requires that the cannon shall be proved with double the weight of metal or shot in our proof-charges that is used in the British proof-charges.

And with such tremendous charges as are used in proving cannon for the service of the United States, the guns are ruined; as those of them which do not burst, while undergoing proof, are so overstrained as to be liable to burst when in actual service.

A founder of cannon for the United States, after incurring the heavy expense of constructing his works and machinery, is annually under the necessity of selecting and procuring large supplies of the purest and toughest iron, to the amount of many thousands of dollars; and when made into pieces of ordnance, the amount is greatly increased by the price of the coal and other materials, and the labor of many skilful artificers employed in the manufacture. And if this great amount of the founder's property is to be at the mercy of a capricious or incompetent person, who may get himself appointed a proving officer, such person or officer has it in his power to ruin or make a bankrupt of the founder, who has no alternative but an appeal to Congress for justice and relief.

The two letters which your petitioner addressed to (General Cass) the Secretary of War; also, the report of Generals Macomb and Wool, and

the letter of the proving officer, Lieutenant Colonel Worth, to Colonel Bomford, upon which letter, that report was founded, accompany this petition, and are marked I, J, K, L.

Since the application was made to the Secretary of War last spring, your petitioner has obtained certificates, on oath, of men of high respectability, and of undoubted veracity, who have had great experience in the manufacture, as well as the inspection and proof of ordnance. They have witnessed the inspection and proof of all the pieces of ordnance manufactured at the Bellona works for many years past, including the guns proved by Lieutenant Colonel Worth at those works, and their several affidavits, marked Nos. 1, 2, 3, accompany this petition.

As no relief has been given by the War Department, your petitioner now appeals to the justice of his country, and prays your honorable bodies to pass a law granting him indemnity for the injury which he has sustained.

JNO. CLARKE.

(I.)—No. 2.

WASHINGTON CITY, *April* 20, 1836.

SIR: I am the proprietor of a cannon foundry and boring mills on James river, about ten miles above the city of Richmond, called the Bellona works, which were built at the solicitation of the Government, during the administration of President Madison, for the manufacture of ordnance for the service of the United States. [See President Monroe's letter, marked A, addressed to the subscriber, and dated 29th December, 1816.]

Previous to my engagements with the Federal Government, I was engaged by the State Government of Virginia to form the plan, erect the works, machinery, &c., and superintend the operations of the Virginia manufactory of arms, (an extensive establishment, in which upwards of two hundred artificers were employed in the manufacture of muskets, rifles, swords, pistols, field artillery, &c., for the militia of Virginia,) which was continued until the Federal Government determined to supply arms for the militia of the States, at the expense of the nation.

The manufacture of good cannon requires the most strong and tenacious or tough metal, judiciously mixed and prepared for the purpose; and from numerous experiments made by me for testing the strength and tenacity of the best pig iron made in Great Britain, as well as the pig iron made in many of the States of this Union, I found that the pig iron made in some of the upper counties of Virginia, bordering on James river, possesses a greater degree of strength and toughness than any other iron I have yet tried, in the course of more than thirty years' experience in the manufacture of that material into all the varieties of ordnance for land and sea service. And it is of this James river iron, chiefly, that I manufacture cannon for the service of the United States.

Besides various other experiments for testing the strength of the guns I manufacture, I reduced the size of a field-piece, (a 6-pounder cannon) after it had been completed and proved, by turning (as in a lathe) one inch in depth from its whole exterior surface, thus rendering it two inches less in its diameter than when it was proved, which made it a thinner and lighter gun of its caliber than I ever heard or read of. Thus reduced in substance or thickness of metal, I proved this gun with various charges of powder and ball, increasing the strength of each charge at every fire. Finding that it

did not burst, I then fired this thin light gun with the full proof-charge, which it withstood, and I repeatedly fired it with the full proof-charges for heavy 6-pounder cannon, all of which it withstood; but they caused this light gun to recoil about thirty-six feet at each fire. This little gun, which is now quite too light for actual service, had, before I reduced its substance, been inspected and proved by the proving officer of the Ordnance Department, and would have been received by him for the service of the United States: but I determined to sacrifice the gun, to enable me to test the strength of the metal I use in the fabrication of cannon. Col. Decius Wadsworth, then at the head of the Ordnance Department, on being informed of these facts by the proving officer of that department, (who had proved the gun before it was reduced in size and thickness, and had also witnessed the effects of all the proof-charges after that reduction,) requested me to send the little gun to the Ordnance Department, which I did; and after it arrived there it was repeatedly fired with full proof-charges for heavy 6-pounder cannon, all of which it withstood; and since that period it has remained at the United States arsenal, on Greenleaf's Point, in the city of Washington, where it may now be seen.

I mention these facts to show the great strength and tenacity of the iron employed by me in the manufacture of cannon, between which and similar pieces manufactured any where else, either in America or Europe, I should be happy to witness a comparative inspection and proof *by competent judges*. By such a comparative inspection and proof, it would be found that the quality of metal, neatness and exactness in the execution of the work, and strength of the guns when subjected to proof, are at least equal to any guns used in the military or naval service of the nation; in support of which opinion, I beg leave to refer you to Col. Decius Wadsworth's letters to the Secretary of War, dated 11th August, 1818, and 10th July, 1820, copies of which (marked B and C) accompany this communication. I also request your attention to the accompanying copies of reports and certificates of Lieut. Hills, late a captain in the ordnance corps, (an officer of great experience in the inspection and proof of ordnance,) dated 28th August, 1817, (marked D and E;) 27th June, 1820, (marked F;) 5th September, 1821, (marked G;) 12th September, 1821, (marked H.)

Cannon for our national defence should be fabricated in the best manner, of the best materials, and should be inspected and proved by men of clear, sound judgment, and much experience in testing their strength. If they be tested by proof-charges *too severe*, the guns become overstrained, are rendered less strong, and more liable to burst when in actual service: it being found that when guns burst on being proved, they are so much overstrained by the first proof-charges that they generally burst with the second proof-charges, which are considerably less strong than the first proof-charges, by which they were overstrained.

The pieces of ordnance manufactured by me for the United States, have usually been inspected and proved by gentlemen qualified by long experience in the inspection and proof of ordnance. But after the formation of the new ordnance corps, officers newly initiated into that corps, without the aid of experience in the inspection and proof of ordnance, were authorized to inspect and test the quality of the guns required for national defence; which has already been attended with deep injury, as many pieces of excellent cannon have been burst by proof-charges of excessive strength, and those guns which do not burst when proved with such charges are

rendered unsafe when used in actual service, they having been overstrained by such excessively strong proof-charges.

When 32-pounder cannon were required for our fortifications, I made the first or pattern gun; and when the first parcel thereof were proved, in June, 1829, one of them burst, before any experience was had in relation to the proof-charges proper for them, which was the only gun that burst out of 415, except sixteen 32-pounder cannon, (excellent guns,) which were burst and destroyed by excessive proof-charges, used by a newly appointed officer; unquestionably an accomplished one in other matters, though certainly inexperienced on the proof of cannon. On witnessing such unprecedented destruction of cannon of the best quality, I objected to a continuation of the proof with such tremendous proof-charges; and when the officer desisted, he left *unproved* sixteen of the 32-pounder cannon, which he intended to have proved; which sixteen guns were afterwards proved by Capt. Ripley, with twenty-nine other such guns subsequently manufactured, (making forty-five 32-pounder cannon,) without bursting a single gun.

These pieces of ordnance were all manufactured in the same manner, of the same kind of iron, and by the same skilful artificers. And the following statement, which accords with the documents and reports in the Ordnance Department, shows the periods at which, and the persons by whom, the 415 pieces of cannon were proved:

No. of proof.	32-pounder cannon proved by	Date of report.	No. proved.	No. burst.
1st	Col. Bankhead, assisted by Lieut. Symington	June 10, 1829	58	1
2d	Do. do. do.	Oct. 28, 1829	29	0
3d	Do. do. do.	June 20, 1830	84	0
4th	Do. do. do.	Dec. 21, 1830	24	0
5th	Do. do. do.	June 7, 1831	16	0
6th	Do. do. do.	June 25, 1832	45	0
			256	1
7th	Major Worth, assisted by Lieut. Child -	July 18, 1833	72	7
8th	Major Worth, assisted by Lieut. Maynadier -	Aug. 7, 1834	42	9
			114	16
9th	Capt. Ripley, assisted by Lieut. Maynadier -	July 9, 1835	45	0

256 32-pounder cannon were proved by Col. Bankhead; one burst, of the first parcel proved.

45 32-pounder cannon were proved by Capt. Ripley; none burst.

301 32-pounder cannon were proved by Col. Bankhead and Capt. Ripley.

114 32-pounder cannon were proved by Major Worth, and sixteen were burst.

415 32-pounder cannon; all which have been proved as above stated.

The British nation, which has perhaps manufactured more cannon, and had more experience in the proof, as well as the use of it, than any other

nation, prove cannon with *only one cannon-ball in the proof-charge;* while the Americans, less experienced than the British, prove cannon with *two cannon-balls in the proof-charge;* thus subjecting the gun to be strained by a force twice as great as that of the British proof-charge, and vastly more powerful than it can, in any circumstances, be required to bear in actual service. For short distances, guns are sometimes double-shotted; but the two shot are not propelled by a force greater than that of the common service charge of powder, which is not more than half the force of the proof-charge; and, with that degree of force, the two shot will not overstrain the gun, nor will the shot be split in pieces by their contact within the gun.

England has long employed the acute ingenuity of her most scientific and skilful experimenters in the art of gunnery, to ascertain all the facts which relate to the fabrication and proof of cannon, as well as its usefulness in the service for which it is intended. And, when we consider the effect of double-shotting guns, and the consequent splitting of the shot, even with the moderate charges of powder mentioned in books of recent date on British gunnery, we are inevitably brought to the conclusion that they have ascertained, by actual experiments, that guns tested by one shot in the proof-charge (as adopted by them) fully and effectually tests the strength of the gun, without its being weakened by it, and that the great superfluous force of the American proof-charge has the injurious effect of overstraining and destroying the strength of the gun.

The officers of our navy have sometimes burst good cannon by excessive proof-charges, which is well known to the officers by whom the guns were proved. I was, however, paid by the Navy Department for the bursted cannon.

And if further proof be wanting of the excellent quality of the metal used by me in the fabrication of cannon, or that the proof-charges were excessive, it may be found in the examination of five 24-pounder cannon, made some years ago for sloops of war, and which are now lying at the Bellona works. These guns did not burst, although they were proved with charges of excessive strength; but such deep grooves were cut into the calibers of the guns, by the angular pieces of shot split or broken within the guns by the excessive force of the proof charges, that those excellent pieces of cannon were deemed unfit for service by the officer who proved them. They were paid for by the Navy Department: because guns manufactured for the Government are inspected and proved by the agents of the Government; and if they are burst or destroyed in pursuance of improper instructions given by those agents who dictate the mode of proof, the strength and composition of the proof-charges, &c., or if they are burst by other agents, who, by improperly proving, burst the cannon, the loss is to be sustained by the Government, whose agents have improperly caused the destruction of the guns.

In the autumn of 1833, soon after Major Worth had destroyed a parcel of my 32-pounder cannon, of as good quality as were ever made, I applied for payment for them at the Ordnance Department, and was informed by Col. Bomford that the Secretary of War was so much occupied that he could not at that time attend to my case, but imagined that he would find leisure to do so after a week or ten days. I then went to Philadelphia, and after about two weeks, I returned to Washington, and again applied at the Ordnance office, and was informed by Col. Bomford that the Secretary of

War was then more busily occupied than on my first application, being engaged in making arrangements with the Governor of Alabama relative to Indian affairs. I therefore returned to Virginia; and since that period I have had no convenient opportunity of making further application for payment. I now beg leave to request that payment may be made to me for the said sixteen pieces of cannon, destroyed by excessive proof-charges. As I am now in Washington, if any further information or explanation shall be deemed necessary I will endeavor to procure it, if required.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. CLARKE.

The Honorable the SECRETARY OF WAR.

P. S.—The powder used by Capt. Ripley, *who did not burst a single gun*, was part of the same parcel or lot of powder used by Major Worth, *who burst sixteen guns*.

(J.)—No. 3.

WASHINGTON CITY, *May* 9, 1836.

SIR: Colonel Bomford, within a few days past, handed me a paper, of which the following is a copy, marked with inverted commas; and stated that he intended to present it to you, without making any report himself on the subject to which it relates.

"ORDNANCE OFFICE,
"*Washington, April* 29, 1836.

"COLONEL: Having been present at the inspection and proof in August, "1834, as assistant to Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Worth, of forty-two 32-"pounder iron cannon manufactured at Bellona foundry, Virginia, I am "enabled to give the following statement of facts in relation thereto:

"The powder used in the proof of all these guns was of Dupont's man-"ufacture, and was carefully proved in the presence and under the direc-"tion of the inspecting officers, immediately previous to filling the car-"tridges to be used in the proof-charges. The proof ranges given by the "eprouvette were within the limits prescribed by the regulations of the Ord-"nance Department for the proof of cannon.

"The cartridge bags were filled in the presence and under the direction "of the inspecting officers, with the exact quantity of powder, by weight, re-"quired by the ordnance regulations for the proof of cannon of this caliber.

"The guns were in every particular properly loaded and fired.

"The inspection and proof throughout was made in exact conformity "with the regulations of the Ordnance Department on this subject, and in "a manner exactly similar to that in which inspections and proofs had been "made at other foundries.

"I have the honor to be,
"Very respectfully,
"Your obedient servant,
"WM. MAYNADIER,
"*1st Lieut. 1st. Art.*"

" At the inspection and proof of cannon in July, 1835, at Bellona foundry, " forty-five 32-pounder iron guns were presented by the founder, of which " number, sixteen had been inspected by Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Worth, " the year previous, but had been withdrawn by the founder before proof. " All these guns were proved in exact accordance with the regulations of the " Ordnance Department, and withstood the proof-charges. The powder " used in the proof of these guns was principally of the same parcel as that " used by Colonel Worth, the year before. There not being, however, a " sufficient quantity to prove all the guns, a mixture was made of this and " other powder from the magazine of Bellona arsenal; all of which, from a " proof of each barrel before the mixture, was found to be within the limits " prescribed by the ordnance regulations for the strength of powder to be " used in proof-charges. This mixture was carefully proved before the proof- " cartridges were made, the quantity of powder in which, was determined " from the regulation range of standard powder, 250 yards.

" This inspection and proof was, in every particular, similar to those at "other foundries.

" Very respectfully,
" Your obedient servants,
" JAMES RIPLEY, *Captain, &c.*
" WM. MAYNADIER, *1st Lieut., &c.*"

Lieut. Maynadier was the assistant of Colonel Worth when they burst the 32-pounder guns with excessive proof-charges. They were newly appointed inspecting and proving officers, but neither of them acquainted with, or experienced in, the inspection and proof of cannon, which requires the most critical accuracy. I suppose they both *thought* that they proved the cannon correctly: but are such men competent to judge whether the guns were proved correctly or not?

When Lieut. Maynadier assisted Col. Worth in proving the guns which they burst, he thought they were proved, in all respects, as the other officers who did not burst the guns, proved them; for he says in his statement (above) that "*the inspection and proof throughout was made in exact conformity with the regulations of the Ordnance Department.*" Afterwards Lieutenant Maynadier assisted Captain Ripley who proved a greater number of the same kind of guns, with the same powder, and under the same regulations, *without bursting a single gun.* And Lieutenant Maynadier unites with Captain Ripley in stating (as above) that " *all these guns were proved in exact accordance with the regulations of the Ordnance Department, and withstood the proof-charges.*"

When guns, in all respects the same, are proved with the same powder, by two different persons, one of whom, in proving a given number, bursts many of the guns, and the other, in proving a greater number of them, under the same written regulations, *does not burst one gun*, the conclusion must be, that the guns which were burst, were not correctly proved; and that if Captain Ripley had used proof-charges of such enormous strength as those used by Colonel Worth, he would have burst the guns; and if Colonel Worth had proved the guns correctly, he would not have burst them. And it is most evident, when we consider that hundreds of these 32-pounder cannon, made of the material, by the same artificers, and at the same works, have been proved by officers who had many years of experience in the proof of cannon, as well as the proof of powder, *and without bursting the*

guns; and consider, also, that soon after Colonel Worth burst the said guns, Captain Ripley, (under the same regulations,) *without bursting a single gun*, proved forty-five of them, sixteen of which, were of the same parcel that Col. Worth began to prove, but left those sixteen guns unproved, when I stopped him in his work of destruction.

The error or mistake which produced the bursting of so many excellent pieces of cannon, (by those inexperienced provers of guns,) may have been made in reducing the quantity of powder in the proof-charges, in proportion to its excess of strength; or it might have been that, through mistake, more weights, or not the proper ones, were put into the scales when the powder for the proof-charges was weighed; either of which causes might have produced the same result. But such was the strength of those immensely powerful proof-charges, that the guns, on undergoing proof, recoiled nearly double the the distance to which they had ever before recoiled on being proved; which was most obvious to all who were present, and were accustomed to witness the proof of ordnance; which circumstance I repeatedly mentioned to Colonel Worth while the proof was carried on. By the tremendous force of these proof-charges, a fragment (weighing several hundred weight) of one of the guns burst by Colonel Worth, was projected several hundred yards from the proving ground, and passed through one of the principal buildings of the United States arsenal, and numerous other large fragments were thrown to greater distances, around the proving ground, while the guns were bursting with those enormous proof-charges.

When I was induced, by the highest officers of the Government, to build the Bellona works, for the manufacture of ordnance for the United States, and promised their endeavors to encourage and support those works as long as the Government would require cannon, it was doubtless intended and expected by the parties that the guns and other pieces of ordnance were to be of the best quality, and that they were to be fairly and properly inspected and proved, by men well skilled by experience in that business. But that has not been done in the case now submitted for your consideration; and I ask of my country remuneration for the injury I have sustained in consequence thereof.

My works and machinery are constructed in the most permanent manner, and on the most improved plan; and the records of the War office and those of the Ordnance office, will show that, according to the best judges, the pieces of ordnance manufactured at those works are equal if not superior to any pieces of artillery made in the United States. It has been generally supposed that the manufacture of cannon for the Government is a very profitable business. But I have manufactured ordnance for the Government, for sea and land service, for the last nineteen or twenty years, with skilful artificers, and with activity and economy, and the profit of the work executed does not amount to as much as the legal interest of the money that was necessarily expended in building the Bellona works. And I would now willingly sell the whole establishment for a reasonable price; although it has the advantages of being situated only a few miles above the city of Richmond, in the immediate vicinity of inexhaustible coal mines, and on the margin of James river, by the navigation of which, iron of superior quality is brought down to the works.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. CLARKE.

The Honorable the SECRETARY OF WAR.

No. 4.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
February 27, 1837.

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be requested to ascertain the facts connected with the bursting of sixteen cannon at Major Clarke's foundry, in July, 1833, and August, 1834, especially such as may explain the mode of proof used upon that occasion, and the quality of the metal. Also the difference between the strength of the charges used in proving those guns, and the strength of the charges used in proving such guns in Great Britain; and report to the Senate, at its next session, his opinion of the remuneration to which the said Clarke should be entitled upon principles of equity.

MARCH 7, 1837,

Note.—It is my opinion that the Secretary of War, in causing to be carried into effect the order of the Senate in relation to the bursting of Mr. Clarke's cannon, would better accomplish the object of that order by construing it to include the additional inquiries mentioned above.

THOMAS H. BENTON,
Chairman Com. Mil. Affairs, Senate.

No. 5.

WASHINGTON, D. C. *June* 17, 1836.

GENERAL: I give below a statement of the quantity of powder used in the proof of 32-pounder guns at Bellona foundry at the proofs and inspections made by Col. Worth in 1834, and by Capt. Ripley in 1835; as also the strength of the powder in each case, as determined by the regulation eprouvette.

Proof range. 1834.	Proof range. 1835.	Weight of charge. 1834.		Weight of charge. 1835.	
Yards.	Yards.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.
273	265	17	13¾	20	3
279	–	17	9		
284	–	17	5		
281	–	17	7		
281	–	17	7		
226	–	21	4		
277	–	17	10		
277	–	17	10		
245	–	14	14	Burst 2d fire.	

The powder used in 1835 was a mixture of the powder left in 1834 with that in the magazine at the Bellona arsenal. This mixture gave a proof range of 265 yards, in accordance with which the weight of the cartridges was fixed at 20 pounds 3 ounces, taking the range of 250 yards as a standard. At the proof in 1834, the range of standard powder was 225 yards, which required the weight of proof-cartridges, made of powder ranging 265 yards, to be 18 pounds 8 ounces. Thus the powder used in 1834, though showing a greater proof range, was, both range and quantity considered, less than equivalent in effect to that used in 1835.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WM. MAYNADIER,
1st Lt. 1st Artillery.

GEN. WOOL, *Insp'r. Gen. U. S. Army,*
Washington, D. C.

No. 6.

WEST POINT FOUNDRY, *June* 2, 1836.

SIR: I am favored with your letter of the 26th May, desiring me to answer certain interrogatories contained in Col. Worth's letter to you of the same date, a copy of which you have done me the honor to enclose.

To the first interrogatory, requiring to know the number of inspections made by Col. Worth at this place, I should answer, five inspections of guns and shot, viz. in May and July, 1833, in May and July, 1834, and in August, 1835.

To the second interrogatory, requiring "my opinion as to the care, attention, and accuracy with which those inspections were conducted," I would answer, that no inspecting officer can be more careful, accurate, or attentive, than Col. Worth has always been in the performance of his duties.

To the third interrogatory, requiring me "to state such casualties in guns, shot, and shells, as have occurred, together with an opinion on the quality of the metal, and accuracy of proof." To this I would answer, that but one gun ever gave way in the powder proof, and this an experiment 12-pounder, at the inspection of experiment guns in August, 1835; that this gun possessed less relative strength to sustain the powder-proof than the brass 12-pounder, and that, although one of the same size and proportions stood the proof as well on repeated firings afterwards, and that the immediate cause of its failure was the accidental breaking of the shot in the gun, I should not deem it a safe model to be adopted for the service. No shells were ever inspected by Col. Worth at this establishment. Shot have been occasionally condemned, both on account of cavities and general roughness of the surface; the proportion I cannot precisely state, but it would not be great, as no shot observed to be even doubtful is ever permitted to be presented to an inspecting officer.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
GOUV. KEMBLE.

Col. GEORGE BOMFORD,
Col. of Ordnance.

No. 7.

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
Washington, April 29, 1836.

COLONEL: Having been present at the inspection and proof, in August 1834, as assistant to Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Worth, of 42 32-pounder iron cannon, manufactured at Bellona foundry, Virginia, I am enabled to give the following statement of facts in relation thereto:

The powder used in the proof of all these guns was of Dupont's manufacture, and was carefully proved, in the presence and under the direction of the inspecting officers, immediately previous to filling the cartridges to be used in the proof-charges. The proof ranges given by the eprouvette were within the limits prescribed by the regulations of the Ordnance Department for the proof of cannon.

The cartridge-bags were filled, in the presence and under the direction of the inspecting officers, with the exact quantity of powder, by weight, required by the ordnance regulations for the proof of cannon of this caliber.

The guns were, in every particular, properly loaded and fired.

The inspection and proof throughout was made in exact conformity with the regulations of the Ordnance Department on this subject, and in a manner exactly similar to that in which inspections and proofs had been made at other foundries.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WILLIAM MAYNADIER,
1st Lt. 1st Artillery.

At the inspection and proof of cannon, in July, 1835, at Bellona foundry, 45 32-pounder iron guns were presented by the founder, of which number sixteen had been inspected by Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Worth, the year previous, but had been withdrawn by the founder before the proof. All these guns were proved in exact accordance with the regulations of the Ordnance Department, and withstood the proof-charges. The powder used in the proof of these guns was principally of the same parcel as that used by Colonel Worth the year before. There not being, however, a sufficient quantity to prove all the guns, a mixture was made of this and other powder from the magazine of Bellona arsenal; all of which, from a proof of each barrel before the mixture, was found to be within the limits prescribed by the ordnance regulations for the strength of powder to be used in proof-charges. This mixture was carefully proved before the proof-cartridges were made; the quantity of powder in which was determined from the regulation range of standard powder—250 yards.

This inspection and proof was, in every particular, similar to those at other foundries.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servants,
JAS. W. RIPLEY,
Captain, Inspector of Ordnance.
WM. MAYNADIER,
1st Lt. 1st Art., Assist. Ins. Ord.

No. 8.

APRIL 7, 1836.

DEAR SIR: I have examined Major Clarke's papers relative to the bursting of 16 cannons in proof-charges with double shot. I have no doubt but that cannon so charged, *with double shot*, are subjected to a trial beyond all use, and that the best of guns are so bursted. The globular form of the two balls have the effect upon one another of the hammer and wedge; one splits the other, drives in a section of it, bursts it, and bursts the gun. My opinion is, that Major Clarke's guns were too severely tested with these double shot, and that he has a claim for compensation for them. Being on the Military Committee, Major Clarke has made an exposition of his case to me, upon which this opinion is based.

Yours, truly,
THOMAS H. BENTON.

Hon. Mr. RIVES.

No. 9.

RICHMOND, *February* 28, 1836.

DEAR SIR: I beg leave to introduce to you Major John Clarke, of Virginia, who goes to Washington on some business connected with your department. I have known this gentleman from my youth, and for twenty years he has been an esteemed and intimate friend. I need not, then, say to you that he is one in whom entire confidence may be placed. He is among the first of our useful and best men. Any aid or facility that you may be able, consistently with the public interest, to give him, will be gratefully received by him, and acknowledged by,

Dear sir, your friend and obedient servant,
A. STEVENSON.

The Honorable L. CASS,
Secretary of War, Washington City.

No. 10.

RICHMOND, *February* 27, 1836.

DEAR SIR: I do myself the pleasure of introducing to you Major John Clarke, of Virginia. He is engaged in the manufacture of ordnance, and has supplied the Government of the United States frequently, on contract. He superintended the State manufactory of Virginia for many years, and is probably the oldest manufacturer of cannon in the United States; and I have always considered him as one of the most accomplished. Such is his reputation with gentlemen of the highest standing in Virginia. He is a gentleman of the greatest respectability; and I would as soon take his statements for true as those of any other gentleman in my acquaintance. He desires particularly to be known to you, from the high respect he has formed for you, as well as from your peculiar relations to the defence of the nation. I trust, my dear sir, I shall not too much intrude upon your valuable time, by asking you to converse with the Major, not only upon the

fortifications of the country, but upon the matter of a claim which he has upon the Government for guns which were burst in consequence of their being improperly proved. Be so good as to examine his several, as well as his particular documents; for you may have it in your power to serve the country, as well as a man of worth.

I am, sir, very respectfully yours,

THOMAS RITCHIE.

Colonel THOMAS H. BENTON,
Senate of United States, Washington.

(A.)—No. 11.

WASHINGTON, *December* 29, 1816.

DEAR SIR: I well recollect that when you suggested your intention to establish a foundry on James river, above Richmond, you inquired of me how far you might calculate on encouragement and support from the Government: and that I informed you, that you might fairly presume on such support, it being essentially the interest of the United States to promote three establishments of the kind, one of which should be on James river. I recollect, also, having communicated at the time with the Secretary of the Navy, if not with the Secretary of War; and being authorized by the former, and, as I think, by the latter, to give you an assurance to this effect, I did it with the greatest confidence. I have no doubt that you made the establishment in consequence of this assurance.

I am, dear sir,
With great respect and esteem,
Your very obedient servant,

JAMES MONROE.

Major JOHN CLARKE.

Extract from one of Colonel Bomford's annual reports to the Secretary of War, dated 29th November, 1825.

"All the existing cannon foundries, as well as the manufactories of small arms, had been established under assurances of continued support from the Government, if their terms and the quality of their work should prove satisfactory. These foundries have, accordingly, continued to furnish all the ordnance required for the public service, both for the War and Navy Departments. The experience acquired in a practice of many years, enables them to furnish ordnance of a more safe and durable description, and of a better quality, generally, than could be expected from new establishments. The cannon foundries now established are capable of furnishing more ordnance than is required in the public service. It was not, therefore, considered either advantageous to the public interest, or just to those who had relied upon the promised support of the Government, to depart from the course long since established, and uniformly pursued for a number of years, by inviting proposals from persons unaccustomed to the business, and thereby encouraging the establishment of additional cannon foundries, which the wants of the public service did not require, and could not sustain."

(B.)—No. 12.

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
August 11, 1818.

SIR: My letter of yesterday, in relation to P. Townsend's contract, will evince that no further reliance is to be placed on him for the performance of his contracts for fabricating cannon.

Messrs. Wirt and Clarke having completed their contract for three hundred tons of cannon and cannon shot, and the work having been executed, not only promptly, but in a style of workmanship, as appears from my own personal inspection of a few of the pieces, as well as the report of the inspecting officer, superior, it is believed, to what has ever been seen before in this country, I feel solicitous they should receive all the encouragement to which they are entitled in consequence.

I would, therefore, respectfully propose entering into a further contract with them for three hundred tons of cannon, cannon-shot, and shells, to be delivered as early as it may be convenient. This quantity will not be sufficient to make up the deficiency on P. Townsend's contract; besides, sufficient attention has not been given by the Ordnance Department to obtain the due proportion of small guns for field service. We have, already, too many 18-pounders and 12-pounders, and too few mortars and howitzers. We want a supply of spherical-case-shot and canister shot.

Should the Government decide to erect extensive batteries and fortifications for the defence of the Chesapeake, many 24-pounders and mortars will be required for that service; and should prefer to give that work to the Bellona foundry, on the James river, rather than to the foundry at Georgetown, because of its proximity to the place where the guns, &c., will be wanted, and because I think the proprietors have spared, and will spare, no pains to give satisfaction in what they may undertake.

They will require an advance of fifteen thousand dollars, which may be spared conveniently enough.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,
DECIUS WADSWORTH,
Colonel of Ordnance.

Hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN.

(C.)—No. 13.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, *July* 10, 1820.

SIR: Messrs. John Clarke & Co. have delivered, on their contract, cannon and other castings to the amount of about $29,000. The amount of advances to them has been $27,000. There will be, consequently, a small balance due them on their account, which will be paid of course. In addition to which, they are desirous of having the original advance of $15,000, from the fund for arming and equipping the militia, renewed to them. I am of opinion it will be expedient to grant them another advance of $15,000 from the fund for arming and equipping the militia. Besides the cannon, &c., already proved, inspected, and delivered, they have on hand, nearly ready for delivery, cannon, &c., to the amount, when finished,

of between $7,000 and $8,000; as appears by a statement which has been transmitted to me by Lieutenant Hills. It is known that a large amount of capital is required to enable persons to carry on a cannon foundry; and as the work executed by Messrs. Clarke & Co., for the United States, has been in quality equal, if not superior, to any other in the United States, I think they merit all the favor and encouragement from the Government that can with propriety be given. I beg leave, therefore, to recommend that the sum of $15,000 be paid them in advance, on account of their contract for field-pieces to arm and equip the militia.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully, sir,
Your very obedient servant,
DECIUS WADSWORTH,
Colonel of Ordnance.

Hon. JOHN C. CALHOUN.

(D.)—No. 14.

DEPOT, NEAR RICHMOND,
August 28, 1817.

SIR: Herewith enclosed, I have the honor to transmit a certificate of the proof and inspection of a quantity of ordnance, cannon-shot, and shells, fabricated at the Bellona foundry, in this State, by Major John Clarke and Company, agreeably to their contract with the Ordnance Department.

It is with much satisfaction and pleasure that I am enabled to add that the quality of the iron of which these castings are made, as also the execution of the work, is equal, if not superior, to that of any other foundry in the United States.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
JOHN HILLS,
Lieutenant of Ordnance.

Col. DECIUS WADSWORTH.

(E.)—No. 15.

DEPOT, NEAR RICHMOND,
August 28, 1817.

I hereby certify that I proved and inspected sixty pieces of cannon, and upwards of sixty tons of cannon-shot and bomb-shells, fabricated at the Bellona foundry, belonging to Major John Clarke and Company, in the county of Chesterfield, in the State of Virginia, for the Ordnance Department of the United States: the whole of which cannon stood an unusually severe proof, as the gun-powder used in that process was of much greater strength than is customarily used in the proof of guns. And I further certify that the quality of the iron, and the execution of the work of said castings, is equal, if not superior, to any in the United States.

JOHN HILLS.

(F.)—No. 16.

ARSENAL, NEAR RICHMOND,
June 27, 1820.

SIR: Enclosed, herewith, I transmit a certificate of the proof and inspection, to which is subjoined the receipt of the military storekeeper of this station, for the cannon and howitzers, cannon-shot and shells which have been fabricated for the United States at the Bellona foundry.

It affords me a high degree of satisfaction in being enabled to state that the castings above referred to, are superior, in point of workmanship and quality of iron, to those produced from any other works in the United States.

I have the honor to be, sir,
With much respect,
Your most obedient servant,
JOHN HILLS,
First Lieutenant of Ordnance.

To JOHN CLARKE, Esq.

(G.)—No. 17.

ARSENAL, NEAR RICHMOND,
September 5, 1821.

SIR: I transmit, herewith, a statement of proof and inspection, exhibiting the number of cannon, howitzers, cannon-shot, and shells received from the Bellona foundry in the present year.

It is with much satisfaction that I have to acquaint you that the castings are of a very superior quality, both in point of excellence of metal and good workmanship; and that castings of a better quality are not to be found in any of our works of defence, or depôts of the Ordnance Department, than those which are fabricated for the General Government at the Bellona foundry.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
JOHN HILLS,
1*st Lieut.* 3*d Art. on Ordnance Duty.*

To JOHN CLARKE, Esq.

(H.)—No 18.

[EXTRACT.]

"The cannon, shot, and shells furnished agreeably to the present contract, are of excellent quality, both as respects excellence of workmanship and the superior quality of the iron used in their fabrication. No better castings are to be found in any of our works of defence, or depôts of the Ordnance Department, than those which have been received from the Bellona foundry."

The above is an extract from a letter addressed to Lieutenant Colonel George Bomford, transmitting a statement of proof and inspection of castings received from the Bellona foundry, dated 12th September, 1821.

JOHN HILLS.

To Major JOHN CLARKE.

No. 19.

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
November 16, 1837.

At the request of Major Clarke, I state, that in the years 1828, 1829, and 1830, or during some of those years, I fired a 24-pounder, new pattern, manufactured by him, about eight hundred times, with the service-charges for single and double shot, and powder stronger than ordinary. That during all the firings, examinations of metal, and transactions with that gun, (which is now mounted at fortress Monroe,) I was satisfied that it was fabricated of exceedingly good metal.

The gun, now in the batteries of fortress Monroe, has the history of its firings, and the trials it has sustained, marked upon its carriage, and may be seen by any one. It has, as I understand, been fired many times, without injury, since my experiments.

WM. H. BELL,
Captain of Ordnance.

No. 20.

WEDNESDAY, *March* 15, 1837.

I certify, that I was the inspector of ordnance for the navy of the United States, and repeatedly inspected and proved cannon, shot, &c., manufactured by Major John Clarke, at his Bellona works in Virginia, as well as at other similar works in the employ of the Government; and ever found that the metal used at the Bellona works was of very superior quality, the work neatly executed, and the inspection and proof thereof was performed according to the regulations of the Commissioners of the Navy.

S. CASSIN,
Captain U. S. Navy.

No. 21.

WASHINGTON, *March* 3, 1837.

I certify, that I was the Inspector of Ordnance for the Government of the United States between six and seven years; that I inspected at the Bellona foundry, belonging to Major John Clarke, several hundred cannon of various calibres, including 256 32-pounder guns; that the iron of which

the guns were made was of most excellent quality, having sustained the proof, which was made in strict accordance with the established regulations, except in one instance, when a 32-pounder gun, of the first parcel proved, burst; and that the dimensions of the guns, and the execution of the work, were correct and faithful.

JAMES BANKHEAD, *Lt. Col. 3d Art'y,*
And late Inspector of Ordnance for the Army.

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(1) No. 22.

I hereby certify that, for several years past, I have been employed as an artificer in the boring of cannon at Major John Clarke's Bellona cannon foundry; but for want of work from the Government I left said foundry in the latter part of last year.

While I was employed at said works, I attended and witnessed the inspection and proof of cannon by the Government officers at those works; and was present and witnessed the inspection and proof of all the cannon proved at the said foundry by Colonel Worth; and I am confident that the guns, when proved by Colonel Worth, recoiled or flew backward to double the distance that I had ever before seen thirty-two-pounder cannon recoil back when they were proved; which I think must have been owing to the guns being overloaded or proved with charges much greater than usual.

Witness my hand this twelfth day of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six.

SUBLETT McGRUDER.

I also certify, that when Colonel Worth had bursted sixteen 32-pounder cannon at Major Clarke's foundry, the said Clarke stopped Colonel Worth from proving any more of his guns, at which time, Colonel Worth left *sixteen of the guns unproved*—which sixteen guns, with twenty-nine other 32-pounder cannon, making forty-five guns, were afterwards proved by Captain Ripley, who did not burst any of the guns. I also witnessed this proof of guns by Captain Ripley, and am confident that the guns proved by Captain Ripley did not recoil (when proved) more than half the distance to which the guns proved by Colonel Worth recoiled when he proved them.

Witness my hand this twelfth day of July, eighteen hundred and thirty-six.

SUBLETT McGRUDER.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, *to wit:*

This day Sublett McGruder (whose name is above subscribed) personally appeared before me, in said county, and made oath to the truth of the foregoing certificate.

Given under my hand this 12th day of July, 1836.

H. HANCOCK,
A Justice of the Peace for the County of Chesterfield, State of Virginia.

Since the date of the foregoing certificate, thirty-one 32-pounder cannon were proved by Captain Ripley, at the Bellona works, without bursting a *gun.*

(2) No. 23.

BELLONA FOUNDRY,
December 13, 1836.

I hereby certify, that during the last nine years I have been employed in the manufacture of cannon at Major John Clarke's Bellona works, where, for the greater part of that time, I have acted, and do now act, as assistant foreman of those works, and have regularly attended the inspection and proof of the various pieces of ordnance manufactured at the said works.

In the year 1828 we commenced the manufacture of thirty-two-pounder cannon for fortifications, and fifty-eight of them were proved in June, 1829. This was the first time that any of the 32-pounder cannon were proved: and it was before the strength of the proof-charges, proper for those guns, was ascertained; and in testing the strength of those 58 guns, one of them burst, and 57 stood proof. Previous to this 13th of December, 1836, we have manufactured, at said works, four hundred and forty-six 32-pounder cannon for fortifications, which have been proved at ten different periods, and by different proving officers. And with the exception of the one gun, which was burst on the first trial of their strength, not one of the 446 guns was burst, excepting the sixteen of them which were burst when proved by Colonel Worth, who, in proving the guns, used proof-charges, which, unquestionably, must have been vastly more powerful than usual, being so extremely strong as to cause the guns proved by him to recoil nearly double as far as I ever saw such guns recoil when proved by any other officer than him.

And, as the whole of those 446 guns were made of the same kind of metal, (best James River iron,) and were manufactured at the same works, and by the same workmen, and with the exception of the one gun which burst at the first trial of their strength, *none of the guns* burst excepting those that were burst by Colonel Worth; it is evident that the proof-charges used by him must have been much more powerful than the proof-charges used by the other officers, who proved portions of those guns at different periods, both before and after Colonel Worth proved guns at those works.

RANDOLPH AMONETT.

VIRGINIA,
Chesterfield County, } *to wit.*

This day Randolph Amonett, who has signed the foregoing certificate, personally appeared before me, Higgison Hancock, a justice of the peace for said county, and made oath that said certificate is true and correct.

Given under my hand this 14th day of December, 1836.

H. HANCOCK, *J. P.*

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(3) No. 24.

BELLONA FOUNDRY,
December 13, 1836.

I hereby certify, that for many years I have been occupied in the manufacture of cannon, &c., at Major John Clarke's Bellona works, where, for

the last fourteen years, I have acted, and do now act, as foreman of the works, and have regularly attended the inspection and proof of the various pieces of ordnance made at said works for the land as well as for the naval service.

On or about the year 1828, the founders of cannon for the United States were required to make 32-pounder cannon for fortifications; and the first gun of that pattern, called the pattern gun, was made at the Bellona works. We proceeded to manufacture those guns, and, as soon as fifty-eight of them were completed, they were proved by the proving officers of the Government; and one of the 58 guns burst by the very great strength of the proof-charges. This happened at the first time of proving 32-pounder cannon, and before the strength of the proof-charges were proportioned to the strength of the gun. Between the years 1828 and the present time, we have manufactured, at said works, four hundred and forty-six 32-pounder cannon for fortifications; some of which were proved every year, as soon as they were made and ready for proof, and, with the exception of the *one gun* at the first proving, not a gun of them was burst until Colonel Worth (who seemed new to the business) burst sixteen of them. The whole 446 guns were made of James River iron, of excellent quality, and by the same experienced workmen, and were, I verily believe, of as great strength and good quality as any such guns ever yet were made; and I am confident that the 16 guns, which were burst by Colonel Worth, were as good as any of the 32-pounder cannon which did not burst on being proved; and, although some of the guns, proved by Colonel Worth, did not burst, yet, in my opinion, the proof-charges used by him were so excessively strong as to overstrain the guns, and render them liable to burst when used in war. Those proof-charges were made of powder greatly exceeding the standard strength of powder; and, in proving the guns, those proof-charges were made to discharge, from the caliber of the gun, double the weight of shot used in proving guns in Europe, and caused those guns to recoil to a much greater distance than any 32-pounder cannon ever did recoil, when proved at these works by any other officer than Colonel Worth himself. Such in fact was the vast strength of his proof-charges, that, while the guns were bursting, a fragment weighing several hundred pounds was thrown several hundred yards, and in its progress passed through one of the principal buildings of the United States arsenal; and many other fragments of the bursted guns were thrown still further. The destruction of those excellent pieces of ordnance was so great that Major Clarke forbade Colonel Worth to proceed with the proof of them; at which time sixteen of the guns remained unproved; and the next year, viz: 1835, those 16 guns left unproved by Colonel Worth, with twenty-nine others, (making forty-five 32-pounder cannon,) were proved by Capt. Ripley without bursting a gun; and, in October last, (the present year, 1836,) Captain Ripley proved an additional number of thirty-one 32-pounder cannon without bursting a gun; and, with the exception of the one gun which burst at the first proving of said guns, not one of the 446 32-pounder cannon was burst, excepting the 16 guns proved by Colonel Worth.

JOSEPH YOUNG, SEN.

VIRGINIA,
Chesterfield County, } *to wit.*

This day, Joseph Young, sen., the signer of the foregoing certificate, personally appeared before me, Higgison Hancock, a justice of the peace for said county, and made oath to the truth of the said certificate.

Given under my hand this 14th day of December, 1836.

H. HANCOCK, *J. P.*

STATEMENTS

SHOWING

THE COINAGE AND IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF SPECIE

During the year 1837.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1837.

Submitted by Mr. Benton, and ordered to be printed.

Gold coinage at the Mint of the United States in 1837.

January	None.
February	$35,500
March	108,380
April	181,000
May	268,000
June	46,250
July	104,490
August	110,205
	$853,825

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Statement of imports and exports of specie since 30*th September* 1836, *as per returns received at the Treasury Department to the* 19*th September*, 1837, *inclusive.*

Imports	$10,288,876
Exports	6,164,882

McCLINTOCK YOUNG.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
September 19, 1837.

Blair & Rives, printers.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

Relative to the necessity of making further appropriations to prosecute the war in Florida.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1837.

Submitted by Mr. Wright as explanatory of the bill of the Senate No. 10, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
September 14, 1837.

SIR: The Seminole Indians having a second time failed to comply with their engagements, this department has been compelled to make extensive preparations for a vigorous prosecution of the war in Florida. The success of the measures adopted by the Government, in pursuance of a humane policy towards the Indians, and our duty to protect the persons and property of the citizens of that territory from outrage and violence, leave us no alternative other than the enforcement of the treaty; and an effort is being made to enable the officers charged with its execution, effectually to accomplish this object. The nature of the country and of the climate, has enabled the enemy to prolong this contest to an unexpected length: but the experience of the officers who, with so much constancy and courage, have hitherto conducted the military operations there, the knowledge of the country they have acquired, and the means which will be placed at their disposal, all give reasonable hopes of bringing the war to a speedy and successful close.

The disastrous consequences of an unsuccessful summer campaign involved the country in great expenses, that were much increased during the protracted negotiations which terminated so unfortunately by the Indians again violating their treaty obligations. During this period, vessels were kept in readiness at great cost, and other means provided to facilitate the emigration of the Indians, while the ordinary expenses of the war establishment were necessarily continued. These unavoidable expenses, with those incurred by the preparations now making to collect a sufficient force and ample supplies for the ensuing campaign, have exhausted the means placed at the disposition of this department for the suppression of Indian hostilities, and will render further legislative provision necessary.

There will be required for the suppression of Indian hostilities, under the following heads, the sum of $1,588,848 22, to wit:

Blair & Rives, printers.

For forage, means of transportation, and various other objects of supply, to be procured by the Quartermaster's Department, and to meet the contingent expenses of the service	$800,000 00
For pay of volunteer force that will be employed in Florida	600,000 00
For clothing and equipage to be provided by the Purchasing Department	153,848 22
For supplies to be furnished by the Ordnance Department	25,000 00
For medical supplies	10,000 00
	1,588,848 22

With a view to an economical prosecution of the important work now in progress on the Red river—the removal of the raft—it is respectfully suggested that the sum of $25,000 be appropriated at the present time. This amount, it is confidently believed if applied now, will enable the department to complete that object; whereas, if the works be suspended for want of funds, until the usual period of making the annual appropriations, much precious time will be lost, and great additional expense incurred.

Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. SILAS WRIGHT, jr.,
Chairman Committee on Finance, Senate.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,

Against the incorporation of a National Bank.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and the Representatives from this State requested, to oppose any and every proposition to charter a bank of the United States, both because this Legislature denies the constitutional power of Congress to charter such an institution, and because they deem it highly inexpedient.

And be it further resolved, That the Secretary of State be directed to furnish each of the Senators and Representatives in Congress from this State, with a copy of this resolution.

IRA A. EASTMAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN WOODBURY,
President of the Senate.

APPROVED, *July* 7, 1837.

ISAAC HILL, *Governor.*

A true copy of the original resolutions.

RALPH METCALF,
Secretary of State.

Blair & Rives, printers.

MEMORIAL

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF CLAIBORNE CO. MISSISSIPPI,

Praying the incorporation of a national bank.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1837.
Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

The memorial of the subscribers, inhabitants of Claiborne county, in the State of Mississippi,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That in the midst of profound peace, embarrassed by no great political struggles, surrounded by all the elements of prosperity, we find our country involved in financial ruin; the hand of industry arrested; all harmony and concert in our monetary operations destroyed; all interchanges of property impeded; all internal exchanges embarrassed; and the whole nation forced to the desperate resort of a suspension of specie payments. Thus are contracts rendered insecure; public and private faith violated; the value of property unsettled; and the people exposed to the imposition of uncontrolled issues of irredeemable State bank notes. In addition to these disasters, new enterprises, which would furnish profitable employment to the laborer, the mechanic, and the agriculturist, are prevented; and, in fine, general confidence, which, judiciously guided and controlled, is the safe basis of agricultural and commercial prosperity, annihilated.

Your memorialists confidently avow the belief that the only remedy for these accumulated evils is within the jurisdiction of your honorable bodies—that it exists in the creation of a specie-paying national institution, obligated to perform such fiscal duties as may be required by Government, and whose energies and resources shall chiefly be directed to the collection of moneys, and furnishing of drafts on all parts of the United States, so as to effect an equalisation of exchanges throughout the country. Such an institution, by extending its prosperous influences to the threshold of every citizen, would, your memorialists believe, prove a national blessing.

In the creation of such an institution, two great objects, intimately connected with the well being of the nation, would, in the judgment of your memorialists, be attained.

Blair & Rives, printers.

1. A resumption of specie payments, without which, no safe standard of value can exist.

2. An equalisation, so far as practicable, of the exchanges of the United States.

As to the power of the Government to organize such an institution, no doubt, it is presumed, can now be entertained. It was exercised during the administration of Washington, and has received in some form, more or less direct, the sanction of all his successors.

Your memorialists accordingly request that Congress will create such an institution as is herein suggested, by which great advantages will be conferred on the country, while the rights of the General Government and of the States may, at the same time, be scrupulously protected from encroachment and injury.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Wm. Finley
Joseph Nicolls
D. Bush
Wiley Dillard
Josiah Foster
Stephen B. Cary
G. W. Elmer
David Kanby
H. N. Spencer
J. L. Foote
Jas. J. Person
R. Parkinson
Geo. W. Sevier
S. M. Tibbits
D. Y. Thomas
D. J. Ely
Wm. H. D. Denney
E. J. Rickhow
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T. Noel
Geo. W. Tharp
P. Cortez Chambliss
Thomas L. Moore
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Jerome Yates
D. M. Stiles
Wm. W. Stiles
Geo. A. Briscoe
L. Burroughs
Jno. R. Murray
A. McClure
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J. B. Cobern
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J. H. Maury
P. Briscoe
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James Barland
Barney Cross
James Evans
A. T. Bowie
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A. Tunstall
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Dan. McDougall
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Wm. R. Macfarlan
G. W. Summers
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P. Green
Andrew J. Green
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M. W. Eagan
J. A. Ferguson
W. T. L. Compton
Willmer & Brown
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J. L. Torrey
John Whiteman
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C. H. Whiteman
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Samuel Whitney
D. F. Barney
R. Bethea
L. W. Kemper
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J. N. Miller
A. T. Thomson
T. O. Owings
F. Hume
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J. R. Harris
Jubal Richardson
Dennis Murphy
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Geo. W. McNider
Abner M. Sawyer
T. Kendall
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L. M. Heath
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A. C. Sharkey
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William. C. Tait
E. D. Watson
J. W. Fisher
Geo. Phillips
Hiram Mould
J. W. Jones
Charles Cox
J. S. Ryland
Thomas Stone
Orange Clarke
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P. M. Man
S. F. R. Abbay
H. W. Pope
H. P. Merrifield
H. M. Posey

M. C. Edwards
E. W. Swann
G. W. Merrifield
R. J. Bland
John T. Vestner
S. O. Bridewell
J. Hendebert
B. Y. Partlow
Passmore Hoopes
Volney Stamps
Benjamin Kuykendall
M. D. Dillon
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E. C. Briscoe
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Stev. Davis
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Duncan McDougall
W. F. Abrams
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H. Anderson
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G. V. Moody
J. O. Pierson
A. W. Hodge
R. R. Hodge
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S. Davis
James Boyd
J. W. Choat
John M. Chilton
D. J. Millard
Francis Murdock
James Moor
Wm. Sillus
H. O. Anderson
John McDougall
David Gatsham
John M. Maury
J. M. Sutton
John H. Brown
Samuel Walker
F. B. Lee
Alfred Clark
Wm. Davis
Wm. B. Jennings
A. Ryan
Thomas B. Magruder
Samuel Cobun
Archibald D. Douglass

James M. Moreland
Sidney S. Nerlly
Wm. Kennison
James Macbeth
J. C. Mills
Edward N. Low
R. M. Ellis
R. Rundell
Wm. Clarke
James A. Maxwell
Edward Griffith
Daniel Hays
Henry Burd
Thomas J. Martin
Lewis Palmer
Geo. Hopkins
T. W. Tompkins
Robert T. Beheal
Wm. G. Bheal
J. T. Botrick
J. B. Shields
James W. Scanlan
Stephen C. Archer
Wm. Avery, Esq.
N. Green
Walgrave Arkley
Harrison Hord
J. Yates
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John R. Harris
Thomas B. Adams
John Tomlinson
J. B. Thrasher
Francis W. Turpin
Geo. P. Applegate
James G. Muir
Robert Watt
J. Harper
J. B. Robinson
J. Macbeth
George Lyde, jr.
G. R. Summers
J. D. Davis
Richards & Bartling
James Scott
D. G. Rose
Wm. R. Keyes
S. K. Thompson
George R. Orr
John H. Dale
D. H. Jones
Peter C. Chambliss
E. H. Dorsey
Ezra Rundell
Thomas Parks
Byron Benton

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

IN RELATION

To the works at Black Rock; in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 2d March, 1837.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1837.
Read, and ordered to be printed.

WASHINGTON, *Sept.* 19, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose a report of the Secretary of War, on the subject of the resolution of the Senate of the 2d of March, 1837.

Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
M. VAN BUREN.

Hon. R. M. JOHNSON,
President of the Senate.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
September 19, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, the report of the Chief Engineer on the subject of the resolution of the Senate passed the 2d day of March, 1837, "requesting the President to ascertain whether the works at Black Rock raise the waters of Lake Erie, to the injury of property on its southern and western shores, &c." The report contains the causes of the delay in carrying out the views indicated by the resolution and in obtaining the required information.

Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
J. R. POINSETT.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Blair & Rives, printers.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 2, 1837.

Resolved, That the President be requested to ascertain, during the recess of Congress, whether the works at Black Rock raise the waters of Lake Erie, to the injury of property on its southern and western shores, and to communicate to Congress, at their next session, the result of the examination.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,
Washington, September 15, 1837.

SIR: In reference to the resolution of the Senate of March 2, 1837, calling for information in regard to the waters of Lake Erie being raised by the works near Buffalo, I have the honor to report:

That no funds having been appropriated for the survey, Capt. A. Talcott, and Messrs. Courtenay and Brown, formerly of the corps of engineers, were requested, on the 14th of April, 1837, to make the necessary examination on their own responsibility, to be reimbursed from an appropriation to be asked afterward of Congress. These gentlemen accepted the offer; but two of them being obliged afterwards to withdraw, the examination could not be made.

For the same reason, of a want of funds, the request made by Mr. Brown, United States' Agent at Dunkirk, N. Y. that Col. Totten and Major Douglass should be appointed, could not be complied with.

A proposition was also afterwards made by Mr. Brown, after Messrs. Talcott and Courtenay had left the lake, that those gentlemen should make the examination, and the expense be defrayed from an unexpended balance of appropriation for other objects then in his hands. To this proposition Capt. Talcott acceded; but this department, having no authority to make the transfer of funds, Mr. Brown was informed that the application of them to this purpose would be on his individual responsibility. Since then, the department is in receipt of no further information.

Unless, therefore, Mr. Brown has concluded to make the survey on his own responsibility, the information required cannot be communicated, there being no funds for that purpose.

I have the honor to return herewith the resolution referred to.

Very respectfully, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
C. GRATIOT.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,
Washington, September 18, 1837.

SIR: In compliance with your verbal instructions, given in pursuance of a resolution of the Senate of March 2, 1837, "That the President be *requested* to ascertain, during the recess of Congress, whether the works at

Black Rock raise the waters of Lake Erie, to the injury of property on its southern and western shores, &c.," I have the honor to submit herewith an approximate estimate of the cost of an examination of the lake with that view, namely:

Three commissioners, one month, at $5 per day - -	$450
Transportation of baggage at 10 cents per mile - -	290
Surveyor, including all expenses - - - -	300
Contingencies - - - - - -	160
	$1200

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
C. GRATIOT.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

MEMORIAL

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF MOBILE, ALABAMA,

Praying the incorporation of a national bank.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1837.
Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The memorial of the subscribers, inhabitants of Mobile, in the State of Alabama,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That in the midst of profound peace, embarrassed by no great political struggles, surrounded by all the elements of prosperity, we find our country involved in financial ruin; the hand of industry arrested; all harmony and concert in our monetary operations destroyed; all interchanges of property impeded; all internal exchanges embarrassed; and the whole nation forced to the desperate resort of a suspension of specie payments. Thus are contracts rendered insecure; public and private faith violated; the value of property unsettled; and the people exposed to the imposition of uncontrolled issues of irredeemable State bank notes. In addition to these disasters, new enterprises, which would furnish profitable employment to the laborer, the mechanic, and the agriculturist, are prevented; and, in fine, general confidence, which, judiciously guided and controlled, is the safe basis of agricultural and commercial prosperity, annihilated.

Your memorialists confidently avow the belief that the only remedy for these accumulated evils is within the jurisdiction of your honorable bodies; that it exists in the creation of a specie-paying national institution, (a majority of the stock of which should, in the opinion of your memorialists, be owned by individuals, and represented in the board of directors,) obligated to perform such fiscal duties as may be required by Government, and whose energies and resources shall chiefly be directed to the collection of moneys, and furnishing of drafts on all parts of the United States, so as to effect an equalisation of exchanges throughout the country. Such an institution, by extending its prosperous influences to the threshold of every citizen, would, your memorialists believe, prove a national blessing.

In the creation of such an institution, two great objects, intimately connected with the well-being of the nation, would, in the judgment of your memorialists, be attained:

Blair & Rives, printers.

1. A resumption of specie payments, without which no safe standard of value can exist.

2. An equalisation, so far as practicable, of the exchanges of the United States.

As to the power of the Government to organize such an institution, no doubt, it is presumed, can now be entertained. It was exercised during the administration of Washington, and has received, in some form, more or less direct, the sanction of all his successors.

Your memorialists accordingly request that Congress will create such an institution as is herein suggested, by which great advantages will be conferred on the country, while the rights of the General Government and of the States must, at the same time, be scrupulously protected from encroachment and injury.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

S. O. Harris
Samuel C. Head
James Martin
W. W. Deloach
J. H. Knox
H. O. Hall
Thomas B. Taylor
John Rolston
Joseph C. Megginson
Daniel Geare
George A. Smith
J. P. Magie
L. Judson
John R. Elliott
John Pedin
James Cramoile
C. J. Mansony
Law P. Hill
Lennox Blarkie
George Poe, jr.
Robert D. Kimball
George W. Grant
William B. Allen
J. G. Adams
G. G. Foster
John Metzgerz
James Wheeler
W. L. Truwit
James Moreland
John James Horn
E. H. Rogers
Daniel Wheeler
J. B. Walker
William G. Ellis
Clinton Ford
A. Brooks
J. E. Sutton
John Parham
John G. Moore
Jared S. Green
L. Hall
F. G. Kimball
R. Greene
C. Milton Pope
James M. Smith
Theodore McGregor
A. F. Edwards
J. T. Smith
Charles B. Warren
N. G. McGunnigle
S. Kellum
R. N. Philpot
D. E. Hall
C. S. Hale
Charles L. Koons
D. H. Laganus
C. Dellinger
John Affroy
C. Batie
John S. Sutton
E. De Vender
Ward H. Blackley
John Huntington
William W. Ford
Charles E. Harris
Henry Myers
William H. Robertson
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John Mayrant
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S. Mason
J. N. Warren
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M. T. Aubert
James M. Muldon & Co.
James Sands
John S. Everett
John S. Remsen
H. J. Jude
Jude & Alshork
H. Lewis
J. B. Dorrance
C. H. Austin
William Bayard
R. W. Holbrook
John G. Clivlan
Benjamin McLaughlin
George S. Kinsman
T. J. De Yampert
Alexander Watson, jr.
R. R. Corlis
J. S. Allen
A. Armstrong
J. Parrine
George E. Redwood
Abner S. Lipscomb
J. W. Isacrott
William D. Dunn
Francis H. T. Gaines
R. C. McAlpin
A. M. Sprague
Jacob Magee
Gurdan H. Bacchus
John P. Reney
S. Throwel
J. Gayle
Robert B. Owen
A. Larisson
A. R. Meclin
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T. M. English
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William Edmond
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W. A. Smith
W. Poole
J. T. Ross
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James Fomiller
E. B. Lyman
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John Test
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M. T. Pooryman
Joel A. Roberts
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E. Pouchet
G. B. Feuilloley
C. Paynter
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John S. Newhouse
Samuel Beucler
Pope & Power
E. Latady
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Alfred Bull
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Cowles & Wichet
C. Wickes
C. Lancelot
Goodman, Miller & Co.
J. S. Hopper
John P. Nicolas
J. B. Ramity
Israel Schooley
U. Ogden
John Larkin
James Thompson
L. Sherman
D. Walker
D. M. Burke
Samuel Morgan
John N. Gradick
J. S. Secor
D. Daly
N. C. Quigley
M. Clark
B. F. King
George Ross
Goka Bitzer
C. D. Bert
Charles Gesenius
William Creighton
Richard Cosgrood
John Magee
George Brown
James Strother
P. S. Stradford
Asa F. Colbech
T. P. Lambert
R. Hinridwen
G. W. Colerige
Charles J. Granger
William W. Smith
H. B. Schofield
John Paul
H. Tracy
James Affah
B. Breckenridge
Thomas J. Officer
A. Bevens

H. J. Crocheran
A. B. Smith
E. G. Pratt
H. P. M. Michael
A. Mackenzie & Co.
T. H. Cooper
H. V. Raymond
Daniel M. Prichard
Gorham Davenport
George Smyth
N. H. Davidson
Mark Killingsworth
J. Reynolds
A. N. Carpenter
P. G. Maguire
Dasha, Bradford & Co.
Thomas B. Stallworth
W. G. Vandergraff
Platt Stout
William Wilde
Charles Lewis
George W. Lappington
Charles T. Jenkins
George Bancroft
James Forster
Henry Witmer
John Lepper
Story Knox
William Lyon
Richard P. Field
A. Delomel
F. A. Mille
William Fiske
A. P. Cleveland
Daniel H. Ryder
Walter Smith
D. W. Goodman
H. Dunning
Isaac Bryan
James Bonner
R. J. Carter
John F. Irwin
J. H. Saxon
Jeremiah Findley
Peter Gilchrist
Lewis G. Glover
Jacob Sloner
E. S. Waits
Joel W. Slaughter
William Stuart
Tobias Egger
James G. Elliot

John Earl
John Dunn
Charles Flanders
John H. Eury
Alexander Stoddard
S. M. Sevenson
John C. Finley
T. Seigton
A. Wright
Thomas Prichard
John K. Randall
John P. Irwin, jr.
Edward Robinson
Wm. Bisser
J. Miller
S. Anderson
George Dickson
Vincent Vaughan
P. O'Sheehan
J. Marthe
R. R. Dade
Reuben Plummer
Wm. Charpentier
D. Girard
Fran. La Cobaro
C. P. Schock
B. T. Menne
Martin Nicolas
George Meckerel
Jo. Jeerig
John Gronn
G. W. Forwke
James C. Martin
R. C. Drake
James Callan
Charles Mancoe
Gabriel Hahu
George Dalah
Jos. Lindon
Jos. Miller
John N. Gifford
John Whittler
Lewis Reeneck
Samuel Lutz
N. D. Morton
Jos. Goodman
W. B. Crawford
James Burns
L. Pettis
Isaac Staniford
James Carr
Wm. Parnell

J. H. Hendrick
Jas. Reed, jr.
R. W. Ashlock
A. E. Rouse
Francis Horace
L. Rivers
Chas. Auzl
Wm. Holway
A. L. McCoy
F. W. McCoy
Chas. Chidsey
L. J. Wilson
R. Caldwell
Wm. Hillard
Patrick Mahony
E. J. Foster
H. H. Raymond
M. Durand
Benj. F. Marshall
Jno. Reilly
L. M. Wilson
J. J. Manroy
A. J. Tardy
Sam. Selden
David F. Woodbury
John H. Bosworth
William Fisher
L. G. Collins & Co.
E. L. Moore
S. Bromberg & Co
W. Grame
E. Smith
W. Smith
S. G. Morris
J. Richardson
Robert M. Parker
Deloach & Jones
Chas. J. Wheeler
James Higgin
P. J. Yost
Joseph Case
John James Horn
Benj. Dorman
Amos Horn
Hugh McCane
W. H. Thomas
W. R. Dunning
Answell & Harris
Robert Flenner
B. F. Bigelow
V. C. Kennedy
H. A. Neehil

Chas. S. Davenport
William S. Patton
L. R. Brown
J. Freiksey
M. P. Holman
Sam. P. Myers
G. M. Mallett
Will. Dunn
L. S. Benedict
Nath. F. Williams
John Steel
A. Wilkins
Miller & Tomlinson
Henry G. Thwing
Jas. A. Watson
J. Neriton
Thomas Adams
B. H. Mullikin
Sam. Conwall
Rufus Gwin
W. J. Prichard
Robert McLean
John P. King
John L. Bostwick
Benjamin Leavens
J. Pritchard
George H. Fry
John A. T. Fry
Jas. Dunsford
J. M. Norman
Peter Salkila
C. Taylor
Martin B. Harper
George H. Foote
J. L. Seabury
Horace W. Robbins
J. Bigelow & Co.
Darling Collins
B. A. Mann
B. Winding
Jefferson Townsend
John J. Springsteel
Jas. J. Adams
D. J. Hoge
John C. Algers
Thomas Christy
Jacob Peterson
George Shept
Robert Haney
Martin Cornelly
Frederick Gorden
Henry Blakeman

Edward Da Gentzen
Wm. Harrlaner
J. W. H. Eustis
Antonio Sanchez
S. M. Duke
John P. Owen
Angus Campbell
Christian Kiebler
Simeon Wheeler
James Page
Robert Crittenden
George Collard
J. B. Wilson
Edmund J. Drake
Wm. Jones
John Pernell
Sacerdate & Jessi
William Service
John B. Hope
Wm. Jarvis
Patrick Curstin
Barney Sheridan
T. Fourcade
T. B. Balenironiff
James Cumming
Robert Gehareshde
M. Faulkner
Geo. C. Simington
Simon Dubois
J. Wilhelm
John Daniel
Hugh T. Parker
Thomas Parnell
Francis Inge
S. W. Trotter
Matthew Nolus
Jno. Hewan
Francis Rhear
C. B. Churchill
James Ross
Benj. C. Steele
Artemas Runville
Joseph Butler
David R. Robertson
Samuel Lenny
J. N. Connell
R. Milroy
R. McCullough
A. B. Cammack
A. Girard
John Spear
L. Cooper

Richard T. Hanson
Joseph Hall
Chas. Smith

J. G. Lyon
Chas. E. Bolles
Joseph S. Kennedy

MEMORIAL

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF SCHUYLER COUNTY, ILLINOIS,

Praying the creation of a national bank.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1837.
Referred to the Committee on Finance.
SEPTEMBER 21, 1837.
Report adverse.
SEPTEMBER 25, 1837.
Ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The memorial of the subscribers, inhabitants of Schuyler county, in the State of Illinois,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That in the midst of profound peace, embarrassed by no great political struggles, surrounded by all the elements of prosperity, we find our country involved in financial ruin; the hand of industry arrested; all harmony and concert in our monetary operations destroyed; all interchanges of property impeded; all internal exchanges embarrassed; and the whole nation forced to the desperate resort of a suspension of specie payments. Thus are contracts rendered insecure; public and private faith violated; the value of property unsettled; and the people exposed to the imposition of uncontrolled issues of irredeemable State bank notes. In addition to these disasters, new enterprises, which would furnish profitable employment to the laborer, the mechanic, and the agriculturist, are prevented; and, in fine, general confidence, which, judiciously guided and controlled, is the safe basis of agricultural and commercial prosperity, annihilated.

Your memorialists confidently avow the belief that the only remedy for these accumulated evils is within the jurisdiction of your honorable bodies; that it exists in the creation of a specie-paying national institution, obligated to perform such fiscal duties as may be required by Government, and whose energies and resources shall chiefly be directed to the collection of moneys, and furnishing of drafts on all parts of the United States, so as to effect an equalisation of exchanges throughout the country. Such an institution, by extending its prosperous influences to the threshold of every citizen, would, your memorialists believe, prove a national blessing.

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In the creation of such an institution, two great objects, intimately connected with the well-being of the nation, would, in the judgment of your memorialists, be attained :

1. A resumption of specie payments, without which no safe standard of value can exist.

2. An equalisation, so far as practicable, of the exchanges of the United States.

As to the power of the Government to organize such an institution, no doubt, it is presumed, can now be entertained. It was exercised during the administration of Washington, and has received, in some form, more or less direct, the sanction of all his successors.

Your memorialists accordingly request that Congress will create such an institution as is herein suggested, by which great advantages will be conferred on the country, while the rights of the General Government and of the States may, at the same time, be scrupulously protected from encroachment and injury.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Valentine Cupp
Joseph Smith
Robert N. Curry
William Irwin
Thomas K. Ball
William Rice
James Brockman
Henry Cheseldine
Daniel Curry
John M. Irwin
E. W. B. Newby
Robert Trabue
Ralph Alexander
Henry Long
Benjamin Perry
William Thomas
George Simmons
George S. Brown
Bird Waggener
Stephen S. Tabbton
William H. Bates
Mark Riggins
Winslow Parker
William Robins
Thomas Wilson
Richard Briggs
John Sides
James Longdon
Samuel Crane
James Sargeant
Josephus Price
Thomas Owen
John Owen
George Hayward
Abram Fry

John Lomax
Samuel W. Wason
W. H. Kendrick
James Givens
Richard Bell
Coulson Tucker
Robert Kirk
William Hamilton
Moses W. Pettigrew
William M. Hatton
Samuel N. Giddings
C. F. Rowell
William Taylor
James Gristy
G. R. Givens
J. B. Brown
Thomas Pickett
Luke Perry
John Taylor, jr.
Levin Marshall
Joseph M. Philips
Joseph Walker
George Smith
James Cox
S. W. Dunlap
Benjamin D. Stout
Benjamin Taylor
Iram Nye
John Bradish
James W. Singleton
D. E. Brainard
William Kendrick
John Trabue
Wesley Durgen
Benjamin Adams

Walter Cecil
John D. Patterson
Bentley Ballard
John Means
Daniel M. Caskill
Christopher Shafer
Richard Ests
Jacob Hersman
Rice Martin
Matthew Alexander
William M. Haley
Alexander Curry
Michael Hersman
Daniel Roberts
Leven Wilson
Alfred Wilgus
Calvin Clark
James G. Brown
L. H. Baker
David Boss
Julius Ouer
Thomas S. Adams
R. H. Hurlbert
John B. Anderson
D. R. Lucas
Clark Giddins

MEMORIAL

OF

A NUMBER OF MERCHANTS AND OTHERS OF BALTIMORE,

Praying the incorporation of a national bank, or the substitution of the United States Bank of Pennsylvania.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned, merchants, manufacturers, and mechanics, of the city of Baltimore, would respectfully represent to your honorable bodies:

That the present condition of the exchange and currency of the United States, the unsettled and deranged state of the whole monetary system of the country, has demonstrated, by serious losses and difficulties, to your memorialists the absolute necessity of a *national bank*, with branches in each State, or some fiscal agent, of federal jurisdiction, with unity of capital, unity of purpose, and under the control of a common head of superintendence, as the only reasonable means that can correct the currency, equalise exchanges, and restrain the over issues of doubtful and irresponsible local establishments.

The United States Bank closed its official existence but a short time since, and in this short period we already realize precisely the same results that followed the interval between the expiration of the charter of the first, and preceding that of the second charter of the United States Bank.

Your memorialists would refrain from enlarging upon the numerous topics so appropriate to illustrate the necessity of a federal fiscal corporation, and the manifest error and impolicy of permitting the currency and exchanges to relapse into the hands of twenty-six or more independent sovereignties; in short, in withdrawing all legislative control over interests that affect, for evil or for good, almost every individual in the community, and leaving mechanics, merchants, and manufacturers exposed to all the evils of a usurious and ruinous system of brokerage.

The close of the United States Bank has brought into existence millions upon millions of independent State bank paper; and the heavy discounts attending its negotiation, even in a day's ride from the counters whence it issues, demonstrate the want of public confidence in its integrity, and are at once an instructive commentary upon what now constitutes a major portion of the national currency.

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The fruits of the system of withdrawing congressional control over the currency, or permitting the States exclusively to monopolize it, are but now appearing; the perfection of the scheme, the full harvest, cannot be realized for years to come.

The rates of exchange between the sea-board, the west, the south, and south-west, now range from three to ten per centum, (which formerly stood between a minimum and maximum rate of ¼ to 1 per cent.,) not only without prospect of improvement, but with the certainty of excess and deterioration. This is not only a loss upon profits and an absolute *tax on trade*, but has produced the greatest embarrassment to all kinds of business, from the impossibility of collecting on some points, through the State banks, on any terms.

Your memorialists therefore pray that Congress will take this matter into serious consideration, and create a *national bank*, with such limitations and powers as may seem right, during its present session; or substitute the present *United States Bank of Pennsylvania* as the fiscal agent of the Government; which, in the opinion of your memorialists, would relieve both the people and the Government at once, by equalising exchanges throughout the country by its agencies, gradually collect the scattered balances due the Government without loss, and lead to a general resumption of specie payments in less than six months.

Birckhead & Pearce	Crawford & McKim
Joseph Jewett	John Franciscus
Wartman & Welsh	Z. H. Cooch
E. C. Thomas	Clark & Kellogg
John Chapman	T. Sheppard
J. Wall	W. McDonald & Co.
A. Lane	E. T. Griffin
S. D. Walker	Charles D. Detord
John McKim, jr.	Trueman Cross
William Wilson & Sons	Eastman & Withington

MEMORIAL

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF WHEELING, VIRGINIA,

Praying the incorporation of a national bank.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

The memorial of the subscribers, inhabitants of the city of Wheeling in the State of Virginia:

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That in the midst of profound peace, embarrassed by no great political struggles, surrounded by all the elements of prosperity, we find our country involved in financial ruin; the hand of industry arrested; all harmony and concert in our monetary operations destroyed; all interchanges of property impeded; all internal exchanges embarrassed; and the whole nation forced to the desperate resort of a suspension of specie payments. Thus are contracts rendered insecure; public and private faith violated; the value of property unsettled; and the people exposed to the imposition of uncontrolled issues of irredeemable State bank notes. In addition to these disasters, new enterprises, which would furnish profitable employment to the laborer, the mechanic, and the agriculturist, are prevented; and, in fine, general confidence, which, judiciously guided and controlled, is the safe basis of agricultural and commercial prosperity, annihilated.

Your memorialists confidently avow the belief that the only remedy for these accumulated evils is within the jurisdiction of your honorable bodies; that it exists in the creation of a specie-paying national institution, obligated to perform such fiscal duties as may be required by Government, and whose energies and resources shall chiefly be directed to the collection of moneys, and furnishing of drafts on all parts of the United States, so as to effect an equalisation of exchanges throughout the country. Such an institution, by extending its prosperous influences to the threshold of every citizen, would, your memorialists believe, prove a national blessing.

In the creation of such an institution, two great objects, intimately connected with the well-being of the nation, would, in the judgment of your memorialists, be attained:

1. A resumption of specie payments, without which no safe standard of value can exist.

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2. An equalisation, so far as practicable, of the exchanges of the United States.

As to the power of the Government to organize such an institution, no doubt, it is presumed, can now be entertained. It was exercised during the administration of Washington, and has received, in some form, more or less direct, the sanction of all his successors.

Your memorialists accordingly request that Congress will create such an institution as is herein suggested, by which great advantages will be conferred on the country, while the rights of the General Government and of the States may, at the same time, be scrupulously protected from encroachment and injury.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

WHEELING, *August*, 1837.

Henry Moore
J. W. Mitchell
D. Lamb
Chas. G. Strong
Geo. Harrison
Geo. T. Tinde
Jacob S. Shriver
W. W. Shriver
J. D. Shipley
Wm. K. Newnam
Chas. Danforth
R. McKee
McKee, Harding, & Co.
Thos. G. Black
Richard W. Harding
W. B. Tyson
A. N. Davison
Jo. W. Dempsey
Moses Rhodes
J. R. Greer
James Baker
Joseph Updegraff
Wm. B. Quanier
John Morgan
B. Smith
John H. Lyman
J. F. Updegraff
James D. Jackson
T. Plunkett
Edwin S. Hoff
P. Campbell
Ritchies & Wilson
John Ritchie
Jas. H. Roberts
Robert Fisher
John Fisher
James M. Stephenson
Charles D. Knox

Robert Armstrong
Jno. List, jr.
John M. Clarke
Sam. S. Jones
B. C. Johnston
Wm. T. Peterson
Albert P. Goff
E. B. Swearingen
W. T. Selby
Thomas J. B. Pentoney
Mark Douglass
R. T. Ford
G. K. Swearingen
Geo. Dulty
Hamilton Pollock
Robert Guy
Amos Wright
Abram Howser
Wm. S. Goshonn
Benj. F. Kelly
David Agnew
W. P. Morris
C. Yeager
Jas. A Clarke
J. Y. Armstrong
Wm. McConnell
Jas. Y. Patterson
William Le Baran
James Lloyd
George Carothers
R. Givin
Wm. Cunningham
Wm. H. Houston
J. R. Forsyth
W. B. Buchanan
M. & R. H. Sweeney & Co.
John Kelsey
George Hobbs

James McCloskey
George Hartley
Robert Snell
Martin Wesly
William Wesly
John S. Browne
John Fawcett
S. S. Hullihen
A. S. Todd
Alf. Bennett
James McLure
David Gorden
F. A. Wandelohr
Wm. A. Davison
S. H. Melcour
S. Rice
A. Getty
Ebenezer McCoy
McCoy & Berry
H. Morton
Isaac N. Ellmaker
H. B. Chubback
Geo. W. Sights
W. W. & S. H. Jimeson
James D. Walker
O. H. P. Millol
David Hull
James R. Baker
J. List
James M. Wheat
William Hall
Joseph Godfrey
J. & J. Godfrey
John Eoff & Son
John D. Eoff
John Gilchrist
Daniel J. Hoye
John J. Hoye
George McMurray
Wm. H. Greer
Robert Monow
John R. Monow
P. M. Moore
R. F. Degge
William Sissons
John R. Miller
H. M. Milier
E. W. Newton & Co.
Bushey & Little
David McColloch
Mordecai Morgan
William Elliot

D. Darragh
Samuel Neel
Alexander Paxton
Jacob E. Bier
Thomas Morris
George Kelsall
S. Cuthbert
F. Judson
Robert Watterson
Samuel C. Clark
J. C. Kerr
John McLane
Andrew Po
Henry Wright
George W. Stanbery
P. D. Duffield
Z. T. Goldenburgh
Jacob Winesburgh
Samuel Winesburgh
R. C. Bonham
Wm. George
John Clarke
Orr George
Solomon Clark
Joseph Morrison
J. H. Widney
Nicholas Griffith
H. B. Vandoren
Moore & Clarke
Charles M. Coen
Otis Dexter
John Hill
Thomas Bell
James J. Caldwell
R. Donagan
A. C. McCallam
Henry J. Jones
George H. Carter
John Hudson
Thomas Conard
J. A. Fawcett
William Clark
Mad. Street
Thomas Townsend
Isaac P. McNamee
George P. Fundenberg
Isaiah Steen
H. D. Brown
M. Warren
Wm. M. Lob
R. B. Swearingen
George S. Thompson

J. Kiger
E. Day
Curtis & Pearson
Jonathan McCalloch
A. H. Miller
B. McMahon
S. S. Hammond
William Garrison
John Rahan
James Bell
Robert Boyd
Stout & Hull
Jas. C. Stout
John C. Riddle
James McConnell
James Godfrey
O. Montcalm
R. Gray
Joseph Reilly
J. Carrell
R. Morrow & Son
M. A. Purdy
George G. Shaw
John Freil
E. J. Coen
Hiram Dysart
Samuel Fawcett
Bennet White
James F. Melven
Eichard Simms

John K. Botsford
Irwin & Miller
S. Atkinson
Timothy Tayler
David McConaughey
Arthur Little
Gordon Lofland
Joseph Jordan
Charles Kemple
John Moore
Archibald Fisher
Robert Baldwin
Robert Hamilton
Moore, Morris, & Bredey
James H. White
Sherrard Clemens
J. Gooding
John F. Clarke
Henry Helm
George Brooks
R. Varney
J. Boggs
Peter E. Linn
A. Richardson
H. McAfee
Isaiah Feldein
Job Stanbery
Richard Cowl
Richard Frances

PETITION

OF

HENRY PERRINE,

For a grant of land, for the encouragement of the growth of tropical plants.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

The memorial of Henry Perrine, Doctor of Medicine, &c., and late American Consul at Campeche, in Yucatan,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That on the 6th day of February, 1832, your memorialist, respectfully directed from the city of New York, to your honorable assembly, a memorial in favor of the immediate domestication of tropical plants in Southern Florida, which resulted in the printed pamphlets of the 1st Session of the 22d Congress, headed Doc. 198, Rep. No. 454, and H. R. 555, a bill to encourage the introduction and promote the cultivation of tropical plants in the United States.

2. The said bill, conveying to your memorialist and his associates, a township of land, on the condition that every section should be forfeited if at least one-fourth thereof should not be occupied and *successfully cultivated* in tropical and other exotic plants *within five years*, was reported on the 26th day of April, 1832, "read twice, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow;" that, as that period had not arrived on the 29th December, 1834, your memorialist respectfully directed from the city of Campeche a supplementary memorial, to solicit that said bill might become a law, with such modifications as the wisdom and justice of that Congress should suggest; and that as said supplementary memorial was not, apparently, ever presented, your memorialist has come to this city of Washington, with the hope of attracting the attention of Congress to the most important enterprise ever proposed by a humble citizen of the United States to promote the prosperity of his country.

3. That to avoid all unnecessary occupation of the time or attention of

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either House during the present short session of Congress, your memorialist most respectfully solicits that his petition may be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, before whom he can appear with specimens of tropical plants, accompanied with documents and details to prove the merits of his claims, and the importance of his enterprise to the peace, population, prosperity, and permanency of the Union.

And your memorialist, &c.,

HENRY PERRINE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *September* 8, 1837.

MEMORIAL

OF

LEVI HAMILTON AND OTHERS,

Citizens of McDonough county, Illinois, praying to be allowed the benefit of the pre-emption laws.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

Your memorialist, Levi Hamilton, begs leave to

REPRESENT:

That in the beginning of the year 1833 a certain Joseph Myers settled on the north half of section five in township six north, in range two west, of the fourth principal meridian, and made some improvements on the same. Your memorialist states, that, in the month of October in the same year, he purchased the improvement of said Myers for the sum of eighty dollars, and caused further improvements to be begun in that year, and about the middle of February, 1834, moved to and became a settler thereon in proper person, and has since that time made valuable improvements on the two northern eighty acre lots of said half section, has built a frame house and other necessary buildings, enclosed and has in cultivation between eighty and one hundred acres on said northeast and northwest [lots] of section five; in short, he did and performed those acts which entitled him to a pre-emption under the late pre-emption law, and made the proper declaration and proof, and presented them in due time, together with the proper amount of money, to the register and receiver of the land office in Quincy; and, although said officers considered and adjudged his proof and papers to be in due form, and sufficient to entitle him to enter said two eighty acre lots by pre-emption, and his tender of money sufficient in amount; yet, as the report of the surveyor had not been received for this township, they refused to receive his money and give him a certificate of purchase, but encouraged him to hope, that, as our wise and equitable Government would deal out its benefits equally to the hardy pioneers who pushed the infant settlement westward, provisions would be made by which the actual settlers in said townships might save their homes and labor by private entry. Thus encouraged, he has farther improved his farm; on it he has bestowed the labor of nearly four years, and it constitutes nearly all his wealth; when it was settled it was wild prairie; he has procured timber and built his houses and

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his farm; and thus improved, if sold at public sale, would bring an amount far beyond what he could pay; he earnestly begs Congress to interpose and let him have his home, without having to purchase it (if he were able) as improved, with four year's labor, toil, privation, and suffering, in a new country; and, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

LEVI HAMILTON, [SEAL.]

AUGUST 10, 1837.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled.

Your memorialists, Robert Grant, Elisha Fargusson, Elijah Fargusson, Thomas A. Brooking, Joseph P. Updegraff, James R. Simpson, Edmund F. Murray, Henry Frizell, William J. Frazer, Demosthenes R. Hamilton, William W. Bailey, Francis W. Simpson, Lawson H. Robinson, Cyrus Haynes, and Thomas B. Grant, beg leave to

REPRESENT:

That owing to the encouragement Congress have, from time to time, liberally extended to settlers on the public land, they have been induced to settle, or purchase settlers' rights, on the Government lands in township six north, in range two west, of the fourth principal meridian, in the full hope and expectation that Government would extend to them the means of securing to them their homes and their labor, as has been done on the Government lands elsewhere. The situation of these lands is, as they believe, fully and faithfully set forth in a petition signed by sundry citizens of McDonough county, of the date of August 10, 1837.

Your memorialist, Robert Grant, states, that in November, 1833, he took possession of the northwest quarter of section nineteen in the above named township, got logs for a house, made rails and stakes, and during the remainder of the year 1833 made preparation to settle on said quarter and improve and cultivate the same; and, in good faith did persevere, and in the month of November, 1834, moved his family to, and settled on, said quarter, and during the year 1834 enclosed and cultivated near fifty acres of corn with a good and substantial fence; was residing on the said quarter on the first day of June 1834, and has continued to reside on the same up to the present time; has made valuable and lasting improvements on it—a good large frame house with suitable out-buildings, stables, &c., and has well enclosed and in good cultivation one hundred and fourteen acres. Your memorialist was entitled to a pre-emption under the general pre-emption law, but not having seen the instructions from the Commissioner of the General Land Office to the several registers and receivers, permitting persons who had not actually cultivated the soil in the year 1833, but who had, during that year, made preparations to enclose and cultivate, which were followed up in *good faith* by settlement and cultivation before the first day of June, 1834; and having some doubts on this subject, he purchased rights to floating entries from persons who were entitled, by proof of pre-emption on eighty acres each, to float on two other eighty acre lots, and presented those floating rights to the register at Quincy before the first

day of June, 1836, and offered to pay to the receiver the money on the original two eighty acre lots, and on the eighty acre lots on which your memorialist lives, and desired to enter and purchase his home by virtue of said floating rights. Your memorialist farther states, that both the register and receiver decided that the pre-emption rights were legal and fully proven, and the right to float from them clear; yet, as the survey had not been received, your memorialist could not purchase his lands until the reception of survey or action of Congress, but encouraged him to improve, and that Congress would not fail to secure to him his labor; and he prays to be protected from the merciless grasp of speculators, and that the Government of his choice will permit him to enter his land, secure his home, and in his old age enjoy the fruits of his labor.

Your memorialist, Thomas B. Grant, states that he is a single man, the son of the above named Robert Grant, and resides with him; that, when his father took possession of the northwest [quarter] of [section] nineteen, he also took possession of the southern half of the southwest quarter of section 18; that he aided his father in making his improvements, and enclosed a part of the aforesaid 80 acres, and cultivated the same in 1834, and has continued to do the same ever since; he states that, by his said father, he procured a good well-proven floating right to enter 80 acres, and presented the same to the proper officers at Quincy, as described in his father's memorial; yet while his right to enter land by said floating pre-emption right was admitted, they refused to receive his money and permit him to enter the land, because the survey had not been received, as described in his father's memorial. He states that, although of full age, he resides on an adjoining quarter with his father, and prays to be permitted to purchase his land and secure his labor at Government price.

Your memorialist, W. J. Frazer, states that he purchased a settler's right on the southwest quarter of section 29, in said township, in the year 1833, and occupied the same, by his tenant, from the month of October, in that year, until he settled on the same with his family in January, 1834; he states that he cultivated a crop of wheat, say one acre, on said quarter in the year 1833, and was fully possessed of the same ever since: but owing to the unhealthy site where the houses stood on said quarter, he settled on an adjoining quarter in the month of May, 1834, which said quarter is an integral part of his farm where he lived on the first day of June, 1834, and still resides; he states, however, that he still, by his tenant, kept possession by actual residence on said quarter; he states that he has —— acres in cultivation, well enclosed, and handsomely improved; he states that he went to the land office in Quincy, and there made his case known, and made proof and filed a pre-emption right under the eye and inspection of the register and receiver, who pronounced the same regular and legal in all respects, and to them he tendered, in proper and legal amount of money, to enter and purchase said quarter; but they would not permit him to enter the same, because the survey had not been legally received; this he did in May, 1835; he states that, until that time, he had no doubt but this township was in the situation of all others in which land had been patented, and might be appropriated by pre-emption right and private entry; he prays to be permitted to enter his land and save this quarter, which is an integral part of his farm on which he lives, at Government price.

Your memorialist, Joseph P. Updegraff, states that a certain Jacob Hinton, in the spring of 1834, took possession of the northern half of the southwest, and the south half of the northwest quarters of section eighteen in the aforesaid township, and built a house, but did not actually settle on it as he was a single man; the house was of good dimensions, two rooms of 14 by 16 feet each; that, in the year 1835, he broke seven acres of land on the said 80 acre lots, and sold his settlers' right to Wayne A. Strode, who shortly afterwards sold the same to your memorialist, who farther improved the same in the year 1836, repairing the houses and enclosing lands, and in March, of the present year, settled on, and now resides on the same: has 40 acres well enclosed and 20 acres in cultivation; and prays that he may be permitted to enter his lands, save his labor, and secure his home, at Government price.

James R. Simpson, your memorialist, states that Henry Frizell settled on the southwest quarter of section nineteen, in the fall of 1834; took possession and enclosed 12 acres—built a house; and in 1835 cultivated said 12 acres, and, in that year, sold the same to Wm. W. Walker, who settled on the same, and occupied, improved, and cultivated the same in the year 1836, and sold the same to your memorialist; who, in March of the present year, moved to, and settled on the same, and is now living on it; he states that he has enclosed seven acres more, and that there are 20 acres enclosed and in cultivation, with houses, stables, and other improvements, to the value of three hundred dollars; he prays that he may be permitted to enter the same at Government price.

Your memorialist, Edmund F. Murry, states that in the year 1834, Richard Churchill took possession of the north half of the northwest [quarter] of section eighteen, and the south half of the southwest [quarter] of section seven in said township, and made some improvement by hauling out some house logs, and sold the same to your memorialist, who, during the present year, has been improving the same, and has erected a dwelling house, and will shortly move his family to and reside on it, designing it to be his permanent home; he prays that he may be permitted to enter the same, and save his labor and his home by private entry at Government price.

Your memorialist, Thomas A. Brooking, states that in the year 1834, Lewis F. Temple took possession of the north half of the southwest [quarter] of section seven, and the south half of the northwest [quarter] of same section, in the said township, and began improving the same in that year by hauling out house logs; and in 1835 built his house and settled on the same, and enclosed fifty acres and put seven of it in cultivation by a wheat crop, and in the year 1836 cultivated the entire 50 acres; and in 1836 your memorialist purchased the same of Temple, and moved in March of the present year, and has cultivated the land and further improved the farm by building an additional house, so that the same is valuably improved, which has been done at great expense and labor as the land is all prairie, and is more than two miles distant from timber; all this has been done on the faith that Government would secure to actual settlers their homes, and continue that policy which has been so beneficial to Government in enhancing the value of her wild lands, and furnishing homes to her citizens.

Your memorialist, Henry Frizell, states that in the year 1835, a certain John Mobley took possession of the north half of the northwest quarter of section seven, in the foregoing township, and improved the same by hauling out house logs, and breaking about an acre of ground, and sold the same to your memorialist, who, in 1836, improved the same by breaking about sixteen acres of land, and hauling out rails and house logs, and building a house; and in March of the present year moved to and settled on the same; and has twenty acres enclosed and in cultivation; and resides on the same; has made valuable and lasting improvements, with great labor and expense, as he has had to haul his timber two miles; he prays to be permitted to enter this land at the Government price, and to save his labor and home.

Your memorialist, Cyrus Haynes, states that in the spring of 1835, a certain Obadiah T. L. Martin, took possession of the southwest quarter of section six, in the fore named township, and improved the same by hauling out logs for a house on this quarter, and shortly after sold his settler's right and improvement to your memorialist, who has taken possession of the same, and further improved it by breaking ten or twelve acres of prairie, and is making arrangement to settle on it.

Your memorialists, Elisha and Elijah Fargusson, beg leave to state that, early in the spring of the year 1835, they settled and improved the north half of section six, in the foregoing township, and during that year built a house, and enclosed about fifty acres and cultivated the same in corn; that they have continued ever since to reside on this land, and have improved it by building two dwelling houses, beside stables and other necessary buildings; have enclosed seventy acres, about sixty of which is in cultivation; they have made lasting and valuable improvements; they state the land is all prairie, and they have hauled their timber more than a mile to make their improvements. They also state that a certain Rufus Botts, in the year 1834, took possession of the southern 80 acres of the northwest [quarter] of section 5, and claimed it in conjunction with the south half of the northeast quarter] of said section, which he so improved as to be entitled to a pre-emption right under the late law of Congress, and was prevented from proving his pre-emption only because the register and receiver had refused to receive proof and permit lands in said township to be entered, because the survey had not been received. Your memorialists further state, that said Botts retained possession and occupation of the same until in the fall of 1836, when he sold the same to you memorialists, who have improved the same by enclosing and cultivating seven acres. They pray permission to purchase the aforesaid lands by private entry.

Your memorialist, D. R. Hamilton, states that a certain Rufus Botts, in the fall and winter of 1833, made preparation to settle and improve the south half of the northeast [quarter] of section five, in the before mentioned township, by preparing to enclose and cultivate lands, and settled on an adjacent quarter; and during the year 1834 and '5 enclosed twenty acres, and broke and cultivated ten acres, and was entitled to a pre-emption; but owing to the reports from the officers of the land office, that entries would not be permitted, because the survey was not returned and received, he failed to make application; your memorialist states that said Botts continued to keep the occupation of the same until August, 1836, when he sold it to your memo-

rialist, who has it in possession and cultivation at this time, and prays permission to enter the same by private entry.

Your memorialist, William W. Bailey, states that a certain Thomas Roberts purchased two pre-emption floats to lay on the east half of northwest quarter of section thirty, township six north, range two west, and the east half of southwest quarter of section thirty, township six north, range two west, and the money was tendered in the land office at Quincy, and could not be received for want of the official plat, and he now holds the register's certificate to that effect; said Robert settled on the land, built a house and cultivated some of the land; but becoming dissatisfied for fear he might be troubled in procuring a right, your memorialist purchased his claim and improvement, for which he paid him three hundred and fifty dollars; said purchase was made in July, 1836, and he has since occupied it by tenant; and prays to be permitted to purchase his land at Government price.

Your memorialist, F. W. Simpson, states that he has an improvement on the west half of the southwest quarter of section thirty, township six north, range two west, of the fourth principal meridian, which he hopes Congress will permit him to enter at Congress price; the improvement and claim cost me two hundred and fifty dollars.

After the foregoing facts your memorialists would urge that, although some of their settlements were not made at time sufficiently early to have entitled them to have purchased by private entry by virtue of pre-emption, yet the claims in all cases are of long standing, and the hope was indulged that the pre-emption privileges would have been extended to this township, and the time enlarged; they would further state, that if this township had been brought into market when the other lands of the district were sold, they could at that time have been purchased by the settlers at Government price, as at that time speculators, however they might disregard naked claims, would not interfere with an actual settler so as to take away his labor. Your memorialists would further state that, in the two townships south of this one, all the actual settlers secured their lands by purchasing floating pre-emption rights, for the surveys had been received and purchases could be made by private entry; but that since the sales, companies have been formed for purposes of speculation, and by use of distant and irresponsible names settlers have been ousted, their labor taken away, and themselves turned out of their homes. Your memorialists consider their individual cases entitled to the kind interposition of Congress, as they want their lands, not for purposes of speculation, but for homes, and as those settlements were made without a knowledge of the difficulties attending the survey of the township. They believe that the wealth of nations consist in virtuous and industrious citizens; and the protection they ask is not to defraud Government, but protection against speculators who have produced, and are producing, so much difficulty to our country; the lands are almost wholly prairie, and if any of them have timber it is broken, hilly, sandy lands; and if the improvements were taken away, and the lands reduced to the state they were when settled, it is doubtful whether they would bring Congress price; they were only selected for settlement because of the difficulty in the titles of the adjoining military lands. It is only the labor and improve-

ments that might cause speculators to bid high prices. They appeal to the magnanimity of Congress with confidence, in the hope that their prayer will be answered; and as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

THOS. A. BROOKING.
ELISHA FARGUSSON.
his
EDMUND ⋈ MURRY.
mark.
HENRY T. FRIZELL.
J. P. UPDEGRAFF.
WM. W. BAILEY.
ELIJAH FARGUSSON.
F. W. SIMPSON.
D. R. HAMILTON.

MEMORIAL

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO

AGAINST

The incorporation of a national bank, and praying an increase of the circulation of gold and silver.

OCTOBER 2, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The undersigned petitioners, citizens of Columbiana county, Ohio, RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT:

That it is with regret we have learned that another attempt will be made, at your extra session, to procure an act of incorporation for a national bank, either by renewing the charter of the present "Bank of the United States," or by granting banking powers to another company similar in their nature to the late charter of that institution. We deem it unnecessary to present arguments to enlighten the minds of your honorable body upon the dangers to be apprehended from granting such an act of incorporation. The history of the last few years is too vivid, in your recollection, to need even a recapitulation of the gross abuse of the powers conferred by Congress on such an institution. We have witnessed, as well as felt, the effects of the disastrous convulsions which the business of the country has at times been subject to, in consequence of the unceasing struggle of the Bank of the United States to *force* a renewal of its national existence. We believe that the constitution does not confer upon Congress the power to establish such a moneyed corporation; and, even if such a power were conferred, we should deem it inexpedient to exercise it: believing, as we do, that it would be creating an irresponsible power greater than the Government itself, through the omnipotence to be obtained over the currency of the country.

"That in the midst of profound peace, embarrassed by no great political struggles, surrounded by all the elements of prosperity, we find our country involved in financial ruin:" not from a want of banking and paper money, but mainly from a *superabundance* of them, and the faithless manner in which their obligations to the public have been executed.

Blair & Rives, printers.

Your petitioners therefore request, that instead of creating more banking capital, and thereby the issue of more paper money, you will take all constitutional measures to increase the circulation of the constitutional currency of gold and silver, and to cause a proportionate decrease in the circulation of their unworthy representatives—paper money. And we believe the first, and most effectual, measure for accomplishing this much desired object, should be the total separation of the fiscal concerns of the Government of the United States from the concerns of banking institutions, and the receiving and disbursing, by the Government, of none other than the legal and constitutional currency of the country.

Peter Bushong
Wm. Greenawyer
D. Strickler
John Strickler
John Young
Johannez Matzanberger
[Illegible]
Edmund Cope
B. Child
Charles Young
David Glosser
Isaac Keister
Joseph Strickler
Jacob Seachrist
John Sturgeon
Daniel Stouffer
John Voglesong
George B. Snowcum
Frederick Bates
Henry Havil
John Dayhoff
Michael Cook
[Illegible]
David Neidig
David A. Neidig
Wm. Bushong
[Illegible]
George Fanyk
John A. Snyder
William Bushong
John G. Oberlandez
Jacob Harman
Gotlobb Bofinger
Wm. Phillips, Jr.
Samuel Harold
[Illegible]
Engey Cole
John Wisey
Jacob Wildasiann
Adam Harman
Adam Yarian

John Laiphly
Daniel Bushong
Matthias J. Rotzel
George Miller
Henry Seachrist
John × Sheaffer
Joseph J. Herey
Jacob × Dones
William Eisenberg
Wm. Sturgeon
Peter W. Dehoff
John Shiery
Emanuel Brubaker
Daniel Smith
George Welch
Wm. Gordon
D. S. Silver
Samuel Seachrist
William Steel
John Steel
Jacob Bushong
Samuel Homshere
Andrew Spousod
George Outerer
John Elser
Michael Jottsels
Solomon Wildasiann
Gottlob Wagg
Leonard Baumbargar
Giving Horklar
Jordan Maynor
Emmor Phillips
Johannes Speimour
Lindries Gorgan
Solomon Harman
John Douglass
John Pirkins
David Bushong
Henry Baker
Samuel Beans
John Firestone

Benjamin Shoyer
William Grove
[Illegible]
George B. Smith
Jop. G. Banrhaff
[Illegible]
[Illegible]
[Illegible]
[Illegible]

Jacob Glocklar
John Conraet
George S. Truksass
Charles Faimet
[Illegible]
[Illegible]
Jacob Schriber
John E. Souders
[Illegible]

REPORT

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

The report of a board of officers appointed to examine the improvements in certain fire-arms; in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 27th January, 1837.

OCTOBER 3, 1837.
Read, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
October 2, 1837.

SIR: The President of the board of officers, appointed under a resolution of the Senate to examine certain arms, has, with the consent of the board, submitted to this department the accompanying report of their examination. This document appears to me not only to present the result of the investigation in a more condensed shape, but to contain some useful information omitted in the former. I beg leave, therefore, to withdraw that document, and to substitute the report herewith submitted.

Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. R. M. JOHNSON,
President of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION.

The board of officers, appointed by General Orders No. 2, February 3, in conformity with a resolution of the Senate, of the 27th January, 1837, "to inquire into and report upon the improvement in fire-arms made by Hall, Colt, Cochran, and the Baron Hackett, and to show the importance of each in all important military points of view," have the honor to report, that the results of the various experiments to which the board has subjected the several arms named in the resolution, and which have not failed to establish a decided opinion as regards their advantages and faults, as weapons proper for arming troops in field service, are herewith presented in tabular form, as required by the resolution.

Blair & Rives, printers.

The board, constrained to pursue the order prescribed in the resolution of the Senate, has involved some repetitions.

I. CELERITY OF FIRE.

The tables give the following results in loading and firing:

1. *With the Musket.*

No. 1	Hackett's	5
2	Hall's	5
3	Colt's	3.1
4	Cochran's	3
5	United States standard	3

2. *With Rifles.*

No. 1	Colt's	3.4
2	Colt's (musket calibre)	3.4
3	Hall's	3.4
4	Cochran's	3.2
5	Leavitt	1.2

Muskets.—Hackett's and Hall's load at the breech with single charges, though constructed on different principles.

No. 5. The United States standard loads at the muzzle.

Nos. 3 and 4. Colt's and Cochran's load at the breech with many-chambered shifting receivers of their charges.

The firing with Hackett's, Hall's, and the United States muskets was in rapid succession.

Colt's and Cochran's required from 2′ to 2′ 10″ to charge a receiver. (*a*)

To determine the comparative celerity, the parties were each furnished with a target, and were required each to load and fire the greatest number of rounds in a given time; Hackett, Hall, and the United States musket being supplied with cartridges, Cochran and Colt with loose ammunition; all commenced loading at the word "fire."

The board adopted this mode, to place the respective weapons upon an equal footing, and under such circumstances as would ordinarily occur, in actual service.

II. EXTENT OF THE RECOIL.

The arms of Hall, Hackett, Colt, and Cochran, being loaded at the breech, receive a ball of greater diameter than a gun which is loaded at the muzzle; the consequence is, a smaller quantity of powder being required to produce the same propelling power necessary for the musket, where of course there must be windage, the recoil must, even on that account, be considerably diminished; but besides the action of the powder, upon the resisting point of these guns, is much less than the effect produced by the elastic fluid upon the breech of other guns of the usual construction; the recoil does not appear sufficient in any of them to have occasioned any inconvenience to the persons using the arms.

(*a*.) To charge these receivers 2′ to 3′ were necessary. Colt, to press the ball down, used a lever; Cochran, a rammer and mallet; these were appendages apparently necessary. A rest was necessary to load the latter, Cochran's, receiver.

III. THE EFFICIENCY OF FIRE.

From the experiments made, it appears that, for guns of the same calibre, and in the same resisting medium, the penetration of the arms loading at the breech, and having their correct charge of powder, is greater than those which are loaded at the muzzle; this is supposed to proceed from the powder, in the former case, having its whole propelling force operating on the ball; in the latter case, it cannot, owing to the windage.

The statement, in the following table, shows the results of experiments made at West Point, on the 19th June, 1837.

Target of well seasoned oak.

Arm.	Charge.	Distance of target.	Penetration.
	Grains.	*Feet.*	*Inches.*
United States musket - -	134	10	2.3
Hall's musket - - -	110	"	2.1
Colt's musket - - -	134	"	2.6
Colt's musket - - -	110	"	2.7
Colt's musket - - -	100	"	3.0
Cochran's musket - -	80	"	1.6

NOTE.—The chamber of Cochran's gun was not capable of containing over 80 grains.

It is worthy of remark, that in the case of Colt's gun, has been illustrated and confirmed the experiments and theory of celebrated writers upon artillery and the effect of powder.

Grains.		*Inches.*
134 - -	produced - - -	2.64
110 - -	produced - - -	2.75
100 - -	produced - - -	3.00

Thus the declaration is here clearly demonstrated, that over charges produce diminished ranges!!

IV. INCONVENIENCE FROM HEATED BARRELS.

Guns which are loaded at the breech are supposed to acquire a less degree of heat, after a rapid and continued fire, than the common arm; in consequence of being cooled by a current of fresh air passing through the barrel during the period of loading; in the experiments here, such does not appear to have been materially the case. The temperature of the interior of the several barrels was ascertained by the introduction of a thermometer immediately after firing, in a given period, a certain number of rounds in quick succession, from 25 to 30 rounds. The result was as follows: Hall's, 150°; Hackett's, —; Colt's, 120°; Cochran's, 122°.

V. CAPACITY OF BEING USED AS A RIFLE.

In positions not uncommon to light troops, the experiments with Hall's rifle in 1826, at Fort Monroe, when in the hands of regular troops, fully prove this arm admirably adapted to that description of service; it will equally apply to the cavalry or mounted corps, in all situations where fire-arms may be required.

The many-chambered guns, from causes before mentioned, connected with their complicated construction, are by no means suitable to the service of light troops, and particularly when mounted; Hall's rifle and Hackett's gun (reduced in length) may, it is considered, be very appropriate to the service required; the fulminating primer is, it must be stated, the only apparent objection to the adoption of Hackett's gun.

VI. SIMPLICITY AND CHEAPNESS OF CONSTRUCTION.

The attainment of simplicity, in the construction of fire-arms, is unquestionably of the first importance, in order that those who are to use them may readily comprehend their principles and utility.

In the examination of Hall's gun, nothing appears complicated; on the contrary, one is struck with the simplicity and solidity of the component parts, and the absence of the various appendages (equipments) which are attendant upon, and are indispensable to, the use and service of the arms both of Colt and Cochran. As regards simplicity and solidity of construction, what has been said of the arms of Hall, may in general be applied to Hackett's gun. It possesses many of the features of utility which characterize the former, and which render them so valuable for military purposes. An arm, complicated in its mechanism and arrangements, deranges and perplexes the soldier in its management; it requires more than common attention to its care and preservation; and should it perchance fail in its operation, which its complexity of construction would frequently occasion, he will lose all confidence in its powers of execution.

Hall's and Hackett's arms, possessing, apparently, the desired simplicity, are more easily managed, present less accountability to the soldier, are less liable to get out of order, and when they are, they are more easily repaired.

The master armorers, at the national manufactories, have been instructed to prepare estimates of the cost of the manufacture of each description of arm. Their report, which, it is supposed, will approximate the reality, will accompany this report, C.

VII. DURABILITY.

The means of testing the durability of the several description of arms is not within the control of the Board; it can only be determined by requiring the inventors to undertake a fatiguing course of firing, greater than some of them could endure, or by placing the arms in the hands of troops, and having them exposed to all the incidents and trials of active field service.

The experiments with Hall's gun, in 1826, gave results satisfactory as to its power of resisting the effect of long firing; and there can be no doubt that the durability of all description of guns will depend greatly upon simplicity, and consequent strength of construction.

VIII. SAVING OF AMMUNITION.

It has been stated that those arms which load at the breech require less powder to produce the same result than those of common construction. —*See No. 2, Efficiency of Fire.*

In the common musket, 144 grains of powder constitute the charge for service, including ten grains for priming. Colt's musket, charged with 100 grains, (primed with a percussion cap,) gave proof of equal, and even of superior power of penetration; which determined that quantity of powder was fully sufficient for that musket. Cochran's musket could not, from its construction, receive more than 80 grains, which was insufficient to accomplish the range and penetration of the United States musket, or that of Colt, with their respective charges; but the reduction of Colt's charge to that of Cochran's produced equal power.

These experiments being directed to facts, in regard to the proper charges to be used in the new description of arms, and likewise with a view to test their relative powers, were conclusive in their results, and prove that in muskets of the same calibre, the saving of powder would be in favor of those which load at the breech as 100 is to 144;* and secondly, the same principle operating in the different arms of Hall, Hackett, Colt, and Cochran, the same charge would produce the same effect.

APPENDAGES.

The inventors, Colt and Cochran, propose that each soldier should, when armed, carry five receivers, (cylinders,) four exclusive of that affixed to the gun.

	lbs.	oz.
Colt's 4, each 3 lbs., would be - - - - -	12	0
To which add their charges - - - - -	1	14
Would be for Colt—total - - - - -	13	14
Cochran, when increased to hold 100 grains, would weigh, with their charges as above, a total of - - - -	16	14

The same number of rounds, 35, contained in these receivers or cylinders, weighing, in one instance, 16 lbs. 14 oz., would, in the common mode of transportation, only weigh 2 lbs. 12 oz. Thus the soldier would be encumbered with near 12 lbs. additional weight of a substance inconvenient in form, and in its position oppressive in a high degree.†

To load the many-chambered guns, several implements of novel and inconvenient form are required; the use and accountability of which would be equally difficult and oppressive to the soldier, besides adding still more to great weight, and appendages already noticed. In the common musket, and with Hall's and Hackett's, these equipments are not required.

IX. THE NUMBER OF CHARGES WHICH MAY BE CARRIED BY AN INFANTRY SOLDIER.

The greatest number of cartridges which are carried by a soldier are sixty = 4 lbs. Colt's and Cochran's guns, to transport little more than

* Percussion caps were used in the chambered guns, flint in the musket; the latter probably is the least expense. It is supposed the regulation charge for the musket is too great.

† With this weight of metallic substance, and fixed round the waist, how long would the soldier endure the heat and damp in the swamps of Florida?

half that number of charges, would, as has been presented, require the soldier to sustain an additional weight to that of his arms, his knapsack, &c., of from 14 to 17 lbs., which, it is believed, he could not support.

This is one of the serious objections to the arms of Colt and Cochran. The arms of Hall and Hackett are exempt from these objections; they may be provided with as many charges as are allowed for the musket in the usual cartridge-box, or other modes of transportation.

X. THE ADVANTAGES WHEN USED AGAINST A CHARGE OF CAVALRY.

In sustaining an attack from cavalry, arms which can keep up a continuous fire, preserving, at the same time, a position of defence with the bayonet, have certainly an advantage greatly superior to those which are obliged to change their position "to load." Hall's and Hackett's muskets possess the above advantage in an eminent degree, being—even during the process of loading—at the charge, and ready for personal defence. This is not the case with Colt's and Cochran's arms, in consequence of the necessity of disconnecting their parts for the purpose of charging them.

XI. THE ADVANTAGES WHEN USED BY CAVALRY.

The advantage is very great in favor of guns which load at the breech; they are easily managed, and conveniently loaded on horseback; they are therefore peculiarly adapted to cavalry service.

Another advantage they possess: the ball being larger than the diameter of the barrel, the ball is not deranged in its chamber by the movement of the horse.

For reasons stated in No. 5 of this report, the many-chambered arms are deemed inapplicable to the service of cavalry.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The various arms under consideration, which have been submitted to the board, constitute two classes, viz:

The first comprises the guns of Hall and Hackett, which load at the breech with single chamber.

The second are the "many-chambered," or repeating guns of Colt and Cochran, the breech of which is formed of cylindrical receivers, which revolve on a pivot, and in which are conical chambers to contain a number of charges, which are brought successively in line with the barrel. The first class differ in construction. Hackett's gun, opening at the breech, uncovers the bottom of the bore into which the charge is inserted, in the form of a cartridge.

2. Hall's gun, the chamber of which being raised by means of a spring, receives its charge, either of cartridge, or powder and ball, from a flask.

The second class, also, varies in construction. The receiver which contains the chambers for the charges, in Cochran's, revolves horizontally on an axis, perpendicular to the bore; whereas, Colt's receiver, revolves on an axis parallel to the bore.

All these guns load at the breech. The advantages of this system are, *therefore*, common to all—viz: the ball being larger than the bore, prevents

windage; and, in consequence, obtains a greater range, more exactness of fire, and, less powder being required, the recoil is diminished. An additional advantage belongs to the first class, namely, Hall's and Hackett's; they can be loaded with great facility, and in any situation or position. This, for skirmishers and light troops, is very important.

Hackett's gun being loaded with cartridge, it often occurs that a part of the paper sticks to the side of the chamber, which, in some degree, chokes it; besides, this paper may at times retain fire, and expose the succeeding cartridge to explosion. This may be avoided in Hall's gun, it being loaded with loose powder.

The guns of Cochran and Colt are equally exposed with the others, to the escape of gas through the joints, and to a lodgment of burnt matter, rendering them stiff and difficult of movement; and, from the contiguity of the loaded chambers and primers, they are liable to explosion of more than one charge at the same time. This may well happen from defect in the metal, or imperfection of workmanship; in that case, these arms become as dangerous and destructive to yourselves as the enemy. One accident of the kind occurred on the 19th of June. A similar occurrence in the field would not only impair the confidence of the troops in the power and safety of their arms, but might render doubtful at least, the success of their operations. It is shown also from the experiments, that risk of great injury might be apprehended by the bursting of the caps. However ingenious, therefore, may be the invention, however creditable the skill of the manufacturer, the Board is of opinion, that the arm of Cochran is an unsafe weapon, and unsuited to the use of bodies acting in line or in masses.

The arm of Colt, possessing all the merits, and exempt from some of the objections attending the former, may be usefully applied in special cases, (such as in stationary defence, entrenchments, block-houses, perhaps too, in the naval service, in the tops of ships, to cover or repel boarders, and in boat service.) Notwithstanding these objects favorable to it, the board is unanimous in opinion, that from the complicated construction of this arm, its liability to accidents, (one having occurred on the 21st of June, see note,) in firing, and for other reasons before noticed, that it is not adapted to the general purposes of the service.

The arm of Hackett the board considers of great merit, possessing, in general, the qualities of the musket, and over it, in several instances, advantages; but it is exposed to the serious objection of a dangerous arrangement of its ammunition, as regards its packing and transportation, and from the impossibility of loading it with lose powder and ball, the necessity for which often occurs. The primer of fulminating powder, and attached to the cartridge, is considered dangerous when in connexion with large quantities of ammunition. These objections may be overcome by those in Europe, who are devoting great attention and consideration to this arm; if so, we should place ourselves on a footing with those military nations who may adopt it, and to whom hereafter we may be opposed. The board is therefore of opinion, we should be in possession of this arm, known in Europe as the *Fusil Robert;* and that the Honorable Secretary of War be requested to have purchased ——— stand of these guns, and cause them to be placed in the hands of select men, in order to a thorough course of experiments, embracing all the incidents of campaign service, both in respect to the weapon, and its ammunition.

The arms now in use in the United States service possess the power, in skilful hands, of all the effect of celerity and efficiency.

The experiments just finished, are conclusive, that up to forty rounds of fire, in reference to the usual character and incidents of service, they have the advantage in several respects; and equality in others, to those of many chambers.

In the instances of the arms under consideration, it is believed, if even there be any thing gained by their peculiarities, over the common musket and Hall's guns, in point of celerity, such advantage has been acquired by too great a sacrifice of important and indisputable principles; that, in the desire to reach perfection in the construction of these arms, the convenience, physical power, and safety of those who are to use them, have been wholly overlooked, and their liability to be assailed when not in a state of preparation to continue their fire, would detract greatly from their character for efficiency.

The board confirms the favorable reports and opinion of various commissions established to test the merits of Hall's guns, some modifications and changes in the arm, and the equipments; they are easily effected. Then the board must entertain the opinion that, as an arm for military purposes, it possesses a decided superiority over every other now known construction of the system of guns which are loaded at the breech.

The application of percussion primers, to arms for the use of troops, has not yet been successful. With improved means of attaching them to the nipple, or cone, they may be introduced into the service of light troops, acting as tiralleurs. The difficulty of placing and fixing so small an object as the cap, during the excitement of action, in excessively cold weather, or in dark nights, are deemed almost impracticable, and has prevented this improvement in fire arms being generally adopted in any service.*

Finally, it is the unanimous opinion of the board, that the arms now in use in the service of the United States, viz: the musket, the rifle, and Hall's musket, rifle, and carbine, with such improvements in the construction as the latter are capable of, combine, in a higher degree, all the requisites of convenience, durability, simplicity, and efficiency, than any that have been suggested for the general armament. All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed on part of the board.

JOHN R. FENWICK,
Br. General and President.

* The liability of these caps to explode in *pieces*, and thereby annoy and maim the contiguous men, was fully illustrated by the experiments.

C.

Cost of one gun from 5,000 *to* 50,000 *of the new invented arms.*

	5,000	10,000	20,000	40,000	50,000	Weight of musket.
						lbs. oz.
Hackett's - - -	$13 69	$12 83	$12 57	$12 27	$12 23	10 12
Colt's - - - -	20 23	19 13	18 66	18 42	18 37	15 5
Cochran's - - -	13 06	12 26	11 86	11 66	11 62	11 14

TABULAR STATEMENT of experiments with Cochran's arms.

Arm.	Date.	Distance in yards.	Charge. Powder, grains.	Charge. Ball.	Charge. Buck shot.	Celerity of fire. No. of discharges.	Celerity of fire. Time of firing.	Celerity of fire. Average rate of firing per minute.	Efficiency of fire. Mean penetration. Oak target, inches.	Efficiency of fire. Musket cartridge paper, sheets of. No. 1.	Efficiency of fire. Musket cartridge paper, sheets of. No. 2.	Remarks.
Small rifle, — balls to the pound.	1837.											
	February 27	50	36	1	–	10	–	–	0.56			
	March 1	100	36	1	–	10	–	–	0.51			
	2	150	35	1	–	8	–	–	0.20			
	2	200	35	1	–	10	–	–	0.14			
	6	9	35	1	–	2	–	–	1.13			
	8	–	35	1	–	8	2′ 30″	–	–	–	–	2° 50′ "extent of recoil."
	9	100	35	1	–	50	17′ 35″	–	–	–	–	Cylinder empty at the commencement of the time.
Carbine, small, — balls to the pound.	February 27	50	38	1	–	10	–	–	0.61			
	March 1	100	38	1	–	10	–	–	0.27	–	–	Fired with rifle powder.
	2	150	45	1	–	10	–	–	0.19	–	–	(United States.)
	2	200	45	1	–	10	–	–	0.02			
	6	9	45	1	–	2	–	–	0.90			
	7	100	45	1	–	100	30′ 6″	–				
	14	400	45	1	–	9	3′ 50″	–	–	–	–	50″ employed in firing; 3′ employed in loading.
Musket.	June 19	34	72	1	–	4	–	–	1.76	–	–	13 fragments of caps and lead found in the blindages placed on each side of the soldier.
	19	100	72	1	–	16	10′	–	–	–	–	One lateral discharge.
	19	134	80	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	454	Fired without patches.
	19	134	80	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	154	Fired with patches.
	19	34	80	1	–	4	–	–	1.65			
	21	180	80	1	–	30	10′	–	–	–	–	Temperature of barrel after firing 122° Fah.

TABULAR STATEMENT of experiments with Hall's rifle.

Date.	Distance in yards.	Charge.		Celerity of fire.			Efficiency of fire.			Remarks.
							Mean penetration.			
		Powder, grains of.	Ball.	No. of discharges.	Time of firing.	Average rate of firing per minute.	Oak target, inches.	Musket cartridge paper, sheets of.		
								No. 1.	No. 2.	
1837.										
February 27	50	70	1	8	-	-	0.63			
March 1	100	70	1	10	-	-	0.93			
2	150	70	1	10	-	-	0.40			
2	200	70	1	10	-	-	0.00	-	-	2 balls imbedded.
6	9	70	1	2	-	-	1.70			
6	300	70	1	10	-	-	0.00	-	-	1 ball struck and made a slight indentation.
8	-	70	1	8	4′ 30″	2.4	-	-	-	9° 17′ extent of recoil.—The recruit, in whose hands the gun was, did not understand the use of the flask.
9	100	70	1	50	21′ 5″					
June 19	3½	70	1	10	-	-	1.12			
21	180	70	1	34	10′					

TABULAR STATEMENT of experiments with Hall's musket.

Arm.	Date.	Distance in yards.	Charge.			Celerity of fire.			Efficiency of fire.			Remarks.
			Powder, grains.	Ball.	Buck shot.	No. of discharges.	Time of firing.	Average rate of firing per minute.	Mean penetration.			
									In oak target, inches.	Musket cartridge paper, sheets of.		
										No. 1.	No. 2.	
Percussion lock.	1837.											
	February 27	50	86	1	–	10	–	–	0.83			
	March 1	100	86	1	–	10	–	–	0.34			
	2	150	82	1	–	10	–	–	0.07			
	2	200	82	1	–	10	–	–	0.00	–	–	1 ball imbedded.
	6	9	82	1	–	2	–	–	0.85			
	June 19	3¼	110	1	–	4	–	–	1.80	–	–	Fired without patches.
	19	3¼	110	1	–	2	–	–	2.17	–	–	Fired with patches.
	19	13¼	80	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	386	
Flint lock.	19	3¼	100	1	–	10	–	–	1.07			
	19	100	100	1	–	20	10′	3.5				
	22	100	100	1	–	10	2′					

NOTE.—The target used in the experiments was made of seasoned white oak plank six inches thick. The muskets used were Hall's common muskets; the three last discharges were by a gun fired with a flint lock, the previous discharges were obtained from a percussion lock.

TABULAR STATEMENT of experiments with Hackett's musket.

Date.	Distance in yards.	Charge.			Celerity of fire.			Efficiency of fire.			Remarks.
								Mean penetration.			
		Powder, grains.	Ball.	Buck shot.	No. of discharges.	Time of firing.	Average rate of firing per minute.	Oak target, inches.	Musket cartridge paper, sheets of.		
									No. 1.	No. 2.	
1837.											
February	27	50	73	1	8	-	-	0.81			
March	1	100	73	1	10	-	-	0.46			
	2	150	73	1	10	-	-	0.32			
	2	200	73	1	10	-	-	0.10			
	6	9	73	1	2	-	-	0.82			
	6	300	73	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	An indentation of 0.300 inches.
	7	56	73	1	99	39′ 30″	-	-	-	-	59 discharges were made in 15′. The cartridge inserted too far 13 times during the firing.
	8	56	73	1	8	1′ 50″	-	-	-	-	Firing in a rain.
	9	100	73	1	50	14′ 50″	-				
	10	9	144	1	3	1	-	1.35	-	-	Mean penetration of buck shot 0.7 inches.
	10	200	85	1	0	5	-	-	-	-	Ball rebounded.
	10	300	73	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	Indentation 0.20 inches.
	10	400	144	1	-	1	-	0.30			
	10	80	73	1	3	8	2′ 15″	-	-	-	10 buck shot out of 18 struck the target.
	14	400	73	1	0	10	2′ 00″				
	14	300	73	1	-	10	2′ 5″	-	-	-	Recoil 9° 15′.

TABULAR STATEMENT of experiments with Colt's arms.

Arm.	Date.	Distance in yards.	Charge.			Celerity of fire.			Efficiency of fire.			Remarks.
									Mean penetration.			
			Powder, grains.	Ball.	Buck shot.	No. of discharges.	Time of firing.	Average rate of firing per minute.	Oak target, inches.	Musket cartridge paper, sheets of.		
										No. 1.	No. 2.	
Small rifle, — balls to the pound.	1837.											
	March 1	50	30	1	–	8	–	–	0.60	–	–	Fired with United States service.
	1	100	30	1	–	10	–	–	0.36	–	–	Rifle powder.
	2	150	36	1	–	7	–	–	0.30			
	2	200	36	1	–	7	–	–	0.00	–	–	1 ball imbedded.
	6	9	36	1	–	2	–	–	0.97			
	7	56	36	1	–	109	39′	–	–	–	–	Cylinder empty at the commencement of the time.
	8	56	36	1	–	8	3′ 20″	–	–	–	–	5° 30′ "extent of recoil."
	9	100	36	1	–	50	12′ 30″					
	14	100	36	1	–	8	2′	–	–	–	–	30″ employed in firing. 1′ 30″ do. in loading.
Musket.	June 19	3¼	134	1	–	6	–	–	2.64			
	19	3¼	110	1	–	4	–	–	2 75			
	19	13¼	80	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	481	
	21	100	100	1	–	31	10′					
	21	13¼	100	1	–	1	–	–	–	717		
	21	180	80	1	–	26	10′	–	–			
	21	3¼	100	1	–	2	–	–	3.00	–	–	124° temperature.
Rifle, (musket caliber.)	21	180	100	1	–	28	10′	–	–	–	–	Two simultaneous discharges in each volley.
	21	3¼	100	1	–	1	–	–	1.60			
Carbine, (musket caliber.)	21	100	100	1	–	33	10′					
	21	13¼	80	1	–	1	–	–	–	672		
	21	3¼	72	1	–	1	–	–	1.57			

Mean penetrations in seasoned white oak.

Arm used.	Charges of powder, exclusive of priming.	Distances from target in yards.						
	Grains.	3½ yds.	9 yds.	50 yds.	100 yds.	150 yds.	200 yds.	300 yds.
United States musket	134	2.15	1.37	1.43	1.00	0.66	0.55	0.00*
	125	1.60						
	90	1.60						
Harper's Ferry rifle	92	2.32	1.80	1.43	0.94	0.65	0.29	0.00†
Hall's musket, percussion lock	110	1.804						
	110	2.175‡						
	86	–	–	0.83	0.34			
	82	–	0.85	–	–	0.07	0.00‖	
	80							
Hall's musket, flint lock	100	1.07						
Hall's rifle	70	1.12	1.70	0.63	0.93	0.40	0.00§	
Cochran's small rifle, — balls to the pound	36	–	–	0.56	0.51			
	35	–	1.13	–	–	0.20	0.14	
Cochran's carbine	45	–	0.90	–	–	0.19	0.02	
	38	–	–	0.61	0.27			
Cochran's musket	80	1.65						
	72	1.76						
Colt's small rifle, — balls to the pound	36	–	0.97	–	–	0.30	0.00¶	
	30	–	–	0.60	0.36			
Colt's musket	134	2.64						
	110	2.75						
	100	3.00						
Colt's rifle, musket caliber	100	1.60						
Colt's carbine, musket caliber	72	1.57						
Hackett's musket	144	–	1.35	–	–	–	–	0.30**
	73	–	0.82	0.81	0.46	0.32	0.10	
Leavitt's carbine — balls to the pound	50	–	–	0.35	0.49	0.30	0.11	

* One ball imbedded.

† Balls rebounded—mean indentation 0.2.

‡ Patched.

‖ One ball imbedded.

§ Two balls imbedded.

¶ One ball imbedded.

** At the distance of 400 yards.

Penetrations in cartridge paper at thirteen and one-third yards distance.

Arm used.	Charge in grains, priming excluded.	No. of sheets penetrated. Musket cartridge paper. No. 1, sheets of.	No. 2, sheets of.
United States musket - - -	134	653	770
Harper's Ferry rifle - - -	92	500	
Hall's musket, percussion - -	80	–	386
Cochran's musket - -	80	–	454*
	80	–	154†
Colt's carbine - - -	100	717	
	80	–	481
Colt's carbine - - -	80	672	

* Fired without a patch. † Fired with a patch.

PETITION

OF

WILLIAM BRENT, JR., OF VIRGINIA,

Praying a more general distribution of the printed documents and laws of the United States.

OCTOBER 4, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

The petition of William Brent, jr., of the State of Virginia, to the Speaker and Members of the Senate of the United States,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That in the year 1814 it was said by Jefferson, that in the United States, "as vehicles of information, and a curb on our public functionaries, newspapers have rendered themselves useless by forfeiting all title to belief."

Whether this was true then, or how far true since, and in 1837, are questions which your petitioner will not take upon himself to determine; and yet, if true, it is but charity to hope that there were then, have been since, and now are, very many honorable exceptions. But whatever is the value of newspapers in furnishing the people with correct information, in a durable and systematic form, the deep conviction which your petitioner entertains that some such plan as the following would come in as a most valuable aid to the newspapers, on this important subject, induces your petitioner to request that your honorable body will appoint a committee to institute an inquiry, how far it would be beneficial to the public good to collect and regularly deposite at every county court-house in the United States, under proper regulations, for safe-keeping, and for the benefit and information of the people of the United States, the following papers and documents:

1. All reports of the heads of the departments made to the President of the United States, which are by him transmitted to Congress; that all such reports shall be printed, and transmitted forthwith, without awaiting the meeting of Congress; that in all cases where in the opinion of the head of any department, or of the President of the United States, it would be injurious to the public weal that such publication should be made forthwith, the reasons for such temporary suspension should be annexed to such report by the department, or by the President, as the case might be, and that such report and reasons should be preserved, and when the reasons for secrecy ceased, should then be published and distributed; that it shall

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be the duty of the President to have all such reports, as are temporarily retained, annually examined and reported for publication and distribution when, in his opinion, the reasons for secrecy no longer exist.

And, that there should be also published and distributed forthwith, as well during the recess as during the session of Congress, the following papers and documents, with the same limitations and exceptions as to temporary secrecy and future publication as set out above,

2. All treaties and commercial arrangements, and regulations with foreign nations, or in our own ports.

3. All instructions to foreign ministers, commissioners, consuls, and other agents, and all correspondences to and from them.

4. All messages of the President of the United States, with the accompanying documents.

5. All communications to Congress, or any of its committees, with the documents, and which have been made by the heads of any of the departments.

6. All reports of committees of both houses of Congress, whether several or joint, whether of the majority or of the minority of such committees.

7. All laws and joint resolutions of both houses of Congress.

8. All the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the decisions of the different Circuit Courts of the United States.

9. All the reports of the cases decided in the Supreme Court of the United States.

10. All the laws and resolutions of the different States, more especially those in relation to questions arising under the constitution of the United States.

11. All the reports of cases decided by the Supreme Courts of the different States on questions arising under the constitution of the United States.

12. All amendments proposed to the constitution of the United States, whether by the Congress, by the State legislatures, or by conventions; all amendments adopted, and the acts and proceedings of the Congress, of the States, and of the conventions, in relation thereto.

13. The messages of the Governors of the States at the opening of their respective legislatures, and such other messages as relate to questions arising under the constitution or laws of the United States.

14. Proclamations of the Governors of the different States, and of the President of the United States.

15. All reports and resolutions adopted by the legislatures of the States, or by either branch of the State legislatures, touching the constitution of the United States, or laws made in pursuance thereof, and treaties of the United States.

16. The constitution and laws of the different States.

17. All American State-papers, and other works of authority referred to, or cited by the Supreme Court of the United States, in settling their construction and interpretation of the true meaning of the words and phrases used in the constitution of the United States.

18. The journals of both houses of the Congress.

19. In fine, all such papers and documents as are used, and are before public functionaries when they make up their opinions on any important subject, and which also should be before an intelligent people, in order for them to possess the means of correctly determining how far these public servants may have mistaken or pursued the public good.

And your petitioner further requests, that the said committee to whom this petition may be referred by your honorable body, shall further inquire and report whether it would not be desirable, and in the true spirit of our political institutions, to have all such public papers, as are above detailed, regularly and systematically collected, arranged, and preserved at the seat of the Government of the United States, so as at all times to be accessible to the nation at large, whence accredited copies might at any time be obtained. And, moreover, that the said committee inquire and report whether the appointment of an officer, holding his office during good behavior, and not at the nod, and will, and pleasure of the President, or of either house of Congress, or of any department, whose duty it shall be to collect, preserve, arrange, safe-keep, and distribute these papers and documents, might not advance the public good; and, again, that the said committee be instructed to inquire into and report as to the benefit of transmitting and distributing these documents as follows:

1. As mentioned above, to the county courts of every State and Territory of the United States, where the legislatures shall make proper and adequate regulations for the safe and proper keeping of the same, by the clerk or clerks, or the officer for that purpose; or where the people of a county shall themselves adopt such regulations, for this purpose, as Congress may suggest.

2. To the President of the United States, and all the Ex-Presidents during their lives, respectively.

3. To all the members of the two houses of the Congress, and for seven years after they shall have ceased to be such; not only during the session of the Congress but during its recess, as the case may be, and as these several papers shall be received by the hands of the officer appointed to collect and distribute them.

4. To all the heads of the different Departments, to the attorney general of the United States, to the judges of the different courts of the United States during their continuance in office, and for seven years thereafter, if they live so long.

5. To the commanders-in-chief and brigadier generals of the United States.

6. Two copies of these papers to be deposited at every permanent military post, fortress, and fortification, where at any one time may have been stationed one thousand men.

7. Two copies at every navy yard, where may have been stationed one thousand men.

8. Two copies to the Executive of each State, to the respective houses of the legislatures of the different States, and to the supreme judiciary of each State and Territory.

9. To all foreign ministers near the Government of the United States.

10. To all the foreign ministers, consuls, and other foreign agents of the United States, to be by them preserved in the archives of their respective missions and consulates.

11. To all incorporated seminaries of learning, and all incorporated libraries in the United States; and one copy for the principal library in each capital city of Europe, and of North and South America.

12. To the printers of the laws of the different States, and to the printers of the laws of the United States, to be by them delivered over to their successors in office.

7. Then let the report of the one be referred to the other committee, and vice versa; let each committee make an analysis of the report referred to them, and from the whole select such plan as they think best calculated for the public good, stating their reasons and facts as before. These reports shall be simultaneously made.

8. Let these reports and evidence be published, and sent forthwith to every court-house in the United States.

Your petitioner further prays, that the committee to whom this petition shall be referred shall, if favorable to the prayer, give their reasons; and if not favorable, shall show the fallacy, and produce their own plan, views, and reasons touching it.

All which is respectfully submitted by

WILLIAM BRENT, JR.,
of Virginia.

September 13, 1837.

STATEMENT

SHOWING

THE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF SPECIE

Since the 19th of September, 1837.

OCTOBER 9, 1837.

Submitted by Mr. Benton, and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
October 2, 1837.

DEAR SIR: I have just summed up the returns of imports and exports of specie received at the department since the 19th ultimo, to which period the late statement sent to you was made up; and I find the imports since then amount to $490,820, and the exports only to $150,985.

Very respectfully,
McCLINTOCK YOUNG.

Hon. T. H. BENTON,
Senate United States.

Blair & Rives, printers.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

A NUMBER OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENS OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO,

Approving the measures proposed by the Executive, &c.

OCTOBER 10, 1837.
Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

DEMOCRATIC MEETING.

At an aggregate meeting of the democrats of Hamilton county, in pursuance of public notice, on Saturday, the 23d of September, Colonel John C. Avery was appointed Chairman; and General Jno. Snyder, William Conclin, Hugh Carr, and Providence White, Vice Presidents; and Captain Rogers, Secretary.

On motion, it was resolved, that a committee of seven members be appointed by the chair, for the purpose of preparing a preamble and resolutions to be laid before the meeting for its consideration and adoption, when the following persons were appointed: Moses Dawson, General John Snyder, Joseph S. Benham, Samuel Bond, William Jessup, James H. Ewing, and Joseph Ross.

On motion, the meeting agreed upon a short recess, to give time for the committee to report.

On the meeting re-assembling, and the report of the committee being called for, Moses Dawson, their chairman, presented the following preamble and resolutions, the whole of which were adopted without a single dissenting voice:

REPORT.

The committee report, through their chairman, Moses Dawson, the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, The revenue of the United States is entirely derived from the labor and ingenuity of the industrious classes of the community, and that revenue being raised by indirect, not by direct taxation, these classes being the most numerous portion of the community as well as of the consumers, are the payers of the largest portion of the taxes; it therefore becomes their peculiar duty to have a vigilant eye towards the collection, the safe keeping, and the honest expenditure of the public money:

WHEREAS, From the commencement of our Government to the present day, the safe keeping and distribution of the public revenue have been important desiderata with the best and most intelligent of our statesmen, who

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have never found out and acted upon a system which has given security to our funds, and satisfaction to our citizens, since they departed from the old system of a National Treasury; on the contrary, those which have been resorted to have resulted in loss to the Treasury, or ingreater evils to the community at large:

WHEREAS, Dear bought experience has taught us that banks, national, State, or local, do not answer the end of either safe or efficient fiscal agents, as in all cases in which they have been tried they have failed to perform the duties required of them:

WHEREAS, Under the peculiar circumstances of the present crisis, with our country at peace and amity with foreign nations, and in commercial intercourse with a greater number than ever before known; an overflowing Treasury; no national debt; an industrious and enterprising people; and a land flowing with milk and honey, eighty-three banks entrusted with the public treasury, and more than thirty millions of that treasure in their coffers, have declared to the world that they are unable to discharge their pecuniary obligations to the people or to the Government; and, in violation of their charters as well as solemn contracts with the Government, they have refused to pay their notes in specie, or to refund to the Government and others the money deposited with them for safe keeping; under these imperious circumstances, then, we say that banks ought no longer to be trusted as the fiscal agents of the nation, and that it now becomes the imperative duty of the General Government to place the finances of the nation upon a firm and a permanent basis unconnected with banks:

WHEREAS, We, the democrats of Hamilton county, have always deprecated the union of Church and State, as being destructive to the liberty and independence of the people; recent events have proved to us that a union of banks and State, have been no less deleterious to the public weal; not only dangerous to liberty but productive of the most intolerable evils, as well to the national property as to the private pecuniary concerns of individuals; inasmuch as the many millions collected of the people in taxes and public lands, being committed to the custody of banks, with the express understanding that those banks should trade upon the money so deposited, has induced them not only to extend their discounts and loans to an extraordinary amount, but so greatly to increase their issues of bank paper as to encourage a rage for the wildest speculation, the grossest monopoly, and the most luxurious living, among the trading portion of our fellow-citizens, and also to enhance the price of the necessaries of life to our industrious mechanics, quite disproportionate to the wages received for their labor, as well as to encourage the importation of foreign products, to the great injury of the agricultural interests of our own country:

WHEREAS, We believe that the sages who formed the constitution of the United States were hard money men, that they never contemplated the employment of banks, national, State, or local, as fiscal agents of the Government or keepers of the national treasure; and as they interdicted the withdrawal of money from the Treasury except in pursuance of the appropriations made by law, they in our opinion contended that the public money, when collected, should never be taken from the Treasury for any other purpose than paying the necessary expenses of the Government, and that, always "pursuant to appropriations made by law;" nor did they ever intend that the public money should be created a fund for bankers, merchants, *speculators*, and stock gamblers, to trade upon, and thereby expose to di-

lapidation or entire loss, the money wrung from the hard earnings of the people to pay the expenses of their Government:

AND WHEREAS, The present derangement of the national finances, caused by the failure of the banks, has induced the President of the United States to convene an extra session of Congress, for the purpose of taking into their consideration the fiscal affairs of the nation, and having laid before that Congress in his message an able, lucid, and fully explicit exposition of the difficulties to which the country has been reduced, and the causes of the same, and suggesting a plan for a restoration of the public Treasury whereby the funds of the nation may hereafter be safely and conveniently administered without the agency of banks: therefore,

1*st. Resolved*, That it is the firm conviction of this meeting, that no banks, national, State, or local, should ever be employed as the fiscal agent of the Government; and those now in existence as deposite banks should be divorced from the Government, now, henceforth and for ever.

2*d. Resolved*, That the two plans proposed by Secretary Woodbury, for the permanent establishment of the national Treasury, upon constitutional principles, have our most unqualified approbation; and we do most earnestly desire that Congress may adopt either of them, which they may think best calculated for the public interest of the nation.

3*d. Resolved*, That we have sufficient confidence in the virtue and integrity of our fellow-citizens, and in the honest intentions and sagacity of the President of the United States, to induce in us a willingness, that he, with the consent of the Senate, shall select from the people such officers as may be necessary to the proper administration of the Treasury.

4*th. Resolved*, That we highly approve of the mode practised by the General Government in the collection and disbursement of the public revenue, both as being the most expedient, and as being perfectly conformable to the constitution, that sacred instrument recognising nothing but gold and silver coin in the collection and disbursement of the revenue.

5*th. Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the collection and disbursement of the public revenue is the best if not the only mode in the power of the Government of restraining the banks in the over-issues of paper, and is well calculated to promote the circulation of specie, for all the ordinary purposes of life, among the producing classes of the community; and that there is now nothing wanted to consummate that great desideratum, a sound currency, but the action of the State legislatures, to make it penal for any bank to issue any notes of circulation under the value of twenty dollars.

6*th. Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that Congress should abolish credit on duties on foreign imposts, as we view that system as an incitement to speculation by our citizens, and as furnishing to foreigners a fictitious capital, to enable them to introduce larger quantities of foreign manufactures, thereby in a great measure rendering our protective tariff nugatory, to the great injury of our own manufactures.

7*th. Resolved*, That we do not approve of such legislative measures, by our General or State Governments, as would tend to the increase of taxation for the purpose of affording relief to men whose own imprudence, and avidity for gain, have brought on themselves the embarrassments under which they labor.

8*th. Resolved*, That the constitutional principles of equal rights and equal laws do not authorise special legislation in favor of any particular class of the community, and injurious to others.

9*th*. *Resolved*, That, in accordance with the eighth resolution, passed at the great democratic meeting held on the 12th June last, at Cincinnati, a committee of twenty-one members, eleven to be a quorum, be appointed by this meeting, for the purpose "of memorializing our next Legislature at Columbus, to take early measures to compel the banks of this State to resume specie payments; to appoint commissioners to examine the affairs of those banks; to annul the charters of those found insolvent, and so reported by the commissioners; to oblige those so reported to wind up their affairs; and by one general and penal law to prohibit any bank from issuing any bank note of less value than twenty dollars; and to refuse to charter or recharter any banks during the session." Of this committee, the president, vice presidents, and secretaries of this meeting shall be members; who shall sign, on behalf of this meeting, such memorial as shall be prepared in pursuance of this resolution.

10*th*. *Resolved*, That, without contending for an exclusive metallic currency, or the abolition of all credit, which the opposition has falsely charged upon the democratic party, we do hold that a metallic currency should be so far exclusive as to prevent bank notes being made a payment in any transaction below the value of $20; and that credit should be so far restrained, that no man or body of men, corporate or otherwise, should, by an act of the Legislature, be authorized to put in circulation as currency, and as a substitute for gold and silver, evidences of their own debt.

11*th*. *Resolved*, That it is with indignation we have seen public notices from banks to their stockholders, that dividends of profits, accruing within the last six months, are ready to be paid to them, the said stockholders; and that we have also seen bank notes in circulation, bearing date in September, 1837; and also tickets for less sums than one dollar, purporting to be issued from banks in this State; all of which proves that, although they refuse to pay their creditors, they can be liberal to themselves, and that, instead of restraining, they are increasing their circulation.

12*th*. *Resolved*, That, in order to mark our abhorrence of those palpable frauds, practised by certain banks, we pledge ourselves to our country and to each other, that we will not accept in payment any bank note bearing date subsequent to the 16th of May last, nor under the sum of one dollar.

13*th*. *Resolved*, That we would highly approve of a bankrupt law passed by Congress for the restraint of banks and other corporations; and, in case of such law being enacted by Congress, one of its provisions should be making the refusal of any bank or other corporation to pay their notes or other written obligations, in specie, an act of bankruptcy; and upon such refusal being made and attested before the proper authority, that a commission of bankruptcy should issue accordingly against the party refusing to pay.

14*th*. *Resolved*, That we hail, with delight, that part of the President's message, in which he reiterates his hostility to a national bank of any description, and expresses his conviction that "lessons of experience must be forgotten, if we suppose that the present overthrow of credit could have been prevented by the existence of a national bank."

15*th*. *Resolved*, That, by the able and argumentative message of the President to the National Legislature, he has given sufficient evidence that he will redeem his pledge of carrying out the principles of his illustrious predecessor, the never-to-be-forgotten Andrew Jackson—the glorious principles promulgated by Jefferson, and for the establishment of which our

fathers fought and bled at the revolution, and which we anxiously desire to have perpetuated to our latest posterity.

16*th*. *Resolved*, That we, with our worthy President, assert that "they must" indeed "form an erroneous estimate of the American people, who suppose that they can be induced, by pecuniary pressure, or any other combination of circumstances, to surrender principles they have so long and inflexibly maintained." And it is with pride we reflect that the democracy of Hamilton county has held fast those principles, notwithstanding those appalling circumstances which have agitated the nation.

17*th*. *Resolved*, That we highly approve of the resolutions of the House of Representatives of the United States confining the business of the extra session to the matters contained in the President's message.

18*th*. *Resolved*, That we have good reason to believe that the suspension of specie payment has been the result of a combination between the bank of the United States of Pennsylvania, and the State and local banks, for the purpose of producing a panic and pressure favorable to the establishment of a national bank.

19*th*. *Resolved*, That we believe the act of the Pennsylvania Bank of the United States, putting into circulation the notes of the late Bank of the United States, to be a fraud upon the public, no institution in existence being responsible for their payment.

20*th*. *Resolved*, That the ticket agreed upon by the convention at Carthage, on the 5th of August last, shall have our decided and undivided support on the second Tuesday in October next; and, in the interim, we will use our utmost influence, with our absent friends, to have it sustained.

21*st*. *Resolved*, That we have full confidence in the talents and integrity of our Representative in Congress, ALEXANDER DUNCAN, ESQ., and that he will represent the 1st district of Ohio with honor to himself and fidelity to his constituents.

22*d*. *Resolved*, That the delegates who composed the county convention, held at this place on the 12th of June last, be a general committee of vigilance for the management of the ensuing election, who shall have power to add to their number in the different wards and townships which they represented at that convention respectively, so as to form separate committees at each of the polls on the day of election.

23*d*. *Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be transmitted to the President, late President, and Vice President of the United States, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with a request to the two latter to have them laid before the respective Houses of Congress over which they preside.

24*th*. *Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the democratic papers in Cincinnati; and that the Ohio Statesman at Columbus, and Washington Globe, be requested to copy the same.

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

REQUESTING

Donations of land in aid of the internal improvements in that State.

OCTOBER 13, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the State of Illinois, at its session held in the years 1836 and 1837, passed an act to establish and maintain a general system of internal improvements:

AND WHEREAS, A Board of Commissioners of Public Works of the State of Illinois was organized in pursuance of the provisions of said act, on the 4th day of April last past; and it being the determination of the Board, thus organized, to use every exertion to carry into effect the provisions of said act, according to the intent and meaning thereof:

AND WHEREAS, The people of the State feel a deep solicitude and lively interest in the earliest possible commencement and completion of the whole, or at least the most prominent works provided for in said act:

THEREFORE, With the view of providing a source from which a portion of the necessary aid may be derived,

Be it resolved, That our representation in Congress be respectfully requested to use their most diligent efforts to procure the passage of a law through the Congress of the United States, making a donation of each alternate section on each side of the most important works contemplated by the act aforesaid; or, in the failure of this, to urge the adoption of some other measure which will contribute to the aid of the State in her great undertaking.

Resolved, That the President of this Board be requested to furnish the Speakers of both Houses of Congress, and each of our representation in that body, with a copy of these proceedings.

WM. KINNEY,

President of the Board of Public Works, State of Illinois.

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MEMORIAL

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY,

Praying the incorporation of a national bank.

OCTOBER 13, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The memorial of the subscribers, inhabitants of Rahway, in the county of Middlesex, in the State of New Jersey,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS:

That in the midst of profound peace, embarrassed by no great political struggles, surrounded by all the elements of prosperity, we find our country involved in financial ruin; the hand of industry arrested; all harmony and concert in our monetary operations destroyed; all interchanges of property impeded; all internal exchanges embarrassed, and the whole nation forced to the desperate resort of a suspension of specie payments. Thus are contracts rendered insecure; public and private faith violated; the value of property unsettled; and the people exposed to the imposition of uncontrolled issues of irredeemable State bank notes. In addition to these disasters, new enterprises which would furnish profitable employment to the laborer, the mechanic, and the agriculturist, are prevented; and, in fine, general confidence, which judiciously guided and controlled, is the safe basis of agricultural and commercial prosperity, annihilated.

Your memorialists confidently avow the belief, that the only remedy for these accumulated evils is within the jurisdiction of your honorable bodies; that it exists in the creation of a specie-paying national institution, obligated to perform such fiscal duties as may be required by Government, and whose energies and resources shall chiefly be directed to the collection of moneys, and furnishing of drafts on all parts of the United States, so as to effect an equalization of exchanges throughout the country. Such an institution, by extending its prosperous influences to the threshold of every citizen, would, your memorialists believe, prove a national blessing.

In the creation of such an institution, two great objects, intimately connected with the well-being of the nation, would, in the judgment of your memorialists, be attained.

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1. A resumption of specie payments, without which no safe standard of value can exist.

2. An equalization, so far as practicable, of the exchanges of the United States.

As to the power of the Government to organize such an institution, no doubt, it is presumed, can now be entertained. It was exercised during the administration of Washington, and has received in some form, more or less direct, the sanction of all his successors.

Your memorialists accordingly request that Congress will create such an institution as is herein suggested, by which great advantages will be conferred on the country, while the rights of the General Government and of the States, may at the same time be scrupulously protected from encroachment and injury.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Samuel B. Dibble
Robert Lee
J. P. Freeman
P. C. Scudder
W. H. Lee
Thomas Lee, Jr.
Francis Van Winkle
Thomas Bennet
Jos. S. Freeman
Lewis Cary
H. Gordon
Isaac Brown
E. Y. Rogers
Jonathan Thompson
John Pearson
Ira Clanson
John E. Clarkson
George F. Webb
John M. Burdsall
George Martin
Samuel Moore
John B. Lee
A. L. Duckin
Daniel D. Miller
C. Vanderhovan
Wm. Jewell
C. Jewell
Asher Skinner
F. King
Wm. Marsh
Samuel Oliver
W. B. Oliver
Jackson Freeman
Henry R. Lee
Robert B. Lee
Benjamin M. Price
M. F. Carman
Edwin Martin
Job Shotwell, Jr.
Edmund M. Brown
Philip Brown, Jr.
Wm. H. Keeler
J. R. Keeler
William Green
Wm. H. Underhill
W. H. Bedell
J. Teneich
M. M. Kimm
W. B. Freeman
Christopher Marsh
J. M. Pattin
Thos. A. Green
Adam Lee
Smith H. Noe
E. R. Smith
Isaac Osborn
James S. Couenhoven
Lewis Drake
Daniel S. Clark, Jr.
William Moore
Wm. H. Cleaver
Job Clark
David Albertson
Moses Ritten
Nathan Thorp
Henry Mondy

MEMORIAL

OF A

NUMBER OF MANUFACTURERS, TRADESMEN, AND OTHER CITIZENS OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK,

AGAINST

The present system of finance, and in favor of a separation of the trade of banking from affairs of State.

OCTOBER 14, 1837.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The memorial of numerous manufacturers, tradesmen, and other citizens of the city of Brooklyn, county of Kings, and State of New York, in public meeting convened this 18th day of August, 1837, in the Common Council Chamber, in the city of Brooklyn aforesaid,

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That your memorialists, suffering in common with their fellow-citizens throughout their beloved country, from the pecuniary embarrassments brought upon them by the use of a base, fraudulent, wicked, and unconstitutional paper currency, turn with confidence to you in quest of relief and deliverance from their manifold wrongs and sufferings; that the *system of finance*, by which the revenues of the General Government are raised and disbursed, (being, as it is believed to be, the model from which similar systems for raising and disbursing the revenues of all our public bodies, down even to those of cities, towns, and village corporations, have been formed,) has been the prolific parent of national debts, State debts, city, town, and village loans, and is so fraught with evil, that from it, as a *primary cause*, has sprung a species of taxation so subtle and indirect in its operations, that it is difficult to trace it through all its ramifications and passes, to its ultimate abstraction of a large amount of our property, and most terrible infringements on our rights and liberties. That, from the means thus covertly taken from us, have arisen up among us, and over us, all those odious monopolies by which we are plundered of still larger portions of the fruit of our sweat, toil, and care, and from these means, too, are drawn the material of which the fetters are forged by which our liberty is manacled, and of which a dagger may be wrought to stab her to the heart; that, from this baneful *system of finance* (as an *original* cause) has emanated our present pecuniary embarrassments, the prostration of our credit, the abasement of our moral character, and the deep national disgrace of

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being regarded by the whole world as utterly devoid of integrity and honor; that your memorialists most ardently desire an entire and eternal separation of the *trade of banking* and the *affairs of State;* that they verily believe that no such separation can be effected so long as the present system of finance be permitted to endure, and that such separation seems to them absolutely necessary as a means of effecting other important and salutary reforms; that your memorialists would, with all deference to your honorable bodies, most respectfully suggest that Congress might, in its wisdom, devise ways and means of raising revenues for the use of the General Government, and by which its disbursements might be made in such manner as to free her from all liability to suffer embarrassment, either from a redundant or straitened Treasury; to free her from all liability to be brought into collision with any and every class of citizens, whether manufacturing, commercial, or agricultural; that a system of finance, based upon a *general* and *direct tax* on *all* the property of every citizen, and levied and collected by the several States, through their *present* town and county assessors and collectors, would enable the General Government to discharge her duty to all, without abridging the liberty of any.

That by the adoption of such a system of finance, she could have no surplus revenues to embarrass her, or to be jeoparded by being placed in banks that might fail; nor could she be charged with being an accessory in the commission of any of the numerous sins charged to these institutions; that the adoption of such a system would free our Government from the necessity of connecting herself with any bank, either State or federal, her revenue would be safe in the pockets of our citizens, while our merchants would be left unshackled by our present custom-house restrictions, to pursue their own interests in their own way, neither being stimulated or repressed by the action of the Government, through the operations of the Treasury; that, under such a system, our manufacturers and artizans would need no protection from the excessive importations of merchants, who, relying on their own capital and credit, and unaided by excessive bank accommodations and *Government bounties*, given in shape of credits on duties, could never interfere injuriously with them, nor could our farmers be made to suffer by being brought to compete with the *tax-ridden* farmers of foreign nations; but merchant, mechanic, and farmer, being all alike free, free from the favors or frowns of Government, all would act in harmony, and prosperity would be their reward: that such a system would place our Government and the republic on a rock from which no contingency in the commercial world, no commotions that might arise in the storms of war, and no unholy combinations of foreign despots, could shake us or disturb our repose; that, in such a system, we should have that absolute independence of other nations, which, as yet, we have only supposed we have; and, with such a system, we might have "hard money for our common transactions, and bank notes, equivalent to specie, for the commerce of the country."

That your honorable bodies may be pleased to examine and consider these premises, and to adopt such measures in relation thereto, as you, in your wisdom, may deem most proper, we, your memorialists, will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

Signed by order of the meeting.

EBENEZER FORD, *Chairman.*

JOB JOHNSON, JR., *Secretary.*

STATEMENTS

OF ALL APPROPRIATIONS MADE DURING THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS;

AND

Of the offices created, and the salaries thereof.

OCTOBER 17, 1837.

Prepared by the Secretary of the Senate, in pursuance of the sixth section of the act, approved July 4, 1836, "to authorize the appointment of additional paymasters, and for other purposes."

I. A STATEMENT OF ALL APPROPRIATIONS MADE DURING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

By "An act to authorize the issuing of Treasury notes."

For defraying the expense of preparing, printing, engraving, signing, and otherwise incident to the issuing of the notes authorized by this act	$20,000

By "An act making an additional appropriation for the suppression of Indian hostilities for the year 1837."

To defray any expenses which have been, or may be, incurred, in preventing or suppressing the hostilities of any Indians	1,600,000

By "An act making further appropriations for the year 1837."

For pay and mileage of the members of Congress and delegates	248,500
For stationery, fuel, printing, and all other contingent expenses of the Senate	30,000
For stationery, fuel, printing, and all other contingent expenses of the House of Representatives	50,000
For the contingent expenses of the Navy, as enumerated in the act of the 3d of March last, in addition to the amount appropriated by that act	120,000
For the relief and protection of American seamen in foreign countries	10,000
For defraying the expenses attending the prosecution of the claim of the United States to the legacy bequeathed by the late James Smithson, of London	5,000

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For contingent expenses of the office of the Treasurer -	$500
For preparing, printing, and binding documents ordered by the resolutions of the Senate, of the 2d of July, 1836, 25th of February, 1837, and 2d of March, 1837, to be disbursed under the direction of the committee to audit and control the contingent expenses of the Senate - - - - -	25,000
If the revenue from duties, or from the sales of public lands, remaining in the hands of the receiving and collecting officers, be not sufficient at any time to pay debentures and other charges which are, by existing laws, made payable out of the accruing revenue before it is transferred to the credit of the Treasurer, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to pay the said debentures and other charges out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.—*Indefinite.*	
Amount exclusive of indefinite appropriations - -	$2,109,000

II. A STATEMENT OF THE NEW OFFICES CREATED DURING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS, WITH THE SALARIES OF EACH.

Four additional temporary clerks to be employed by the Treasurer and Register of the Treasury, at salaries not to exceed the rate of 1,200 dollars per annum, each.